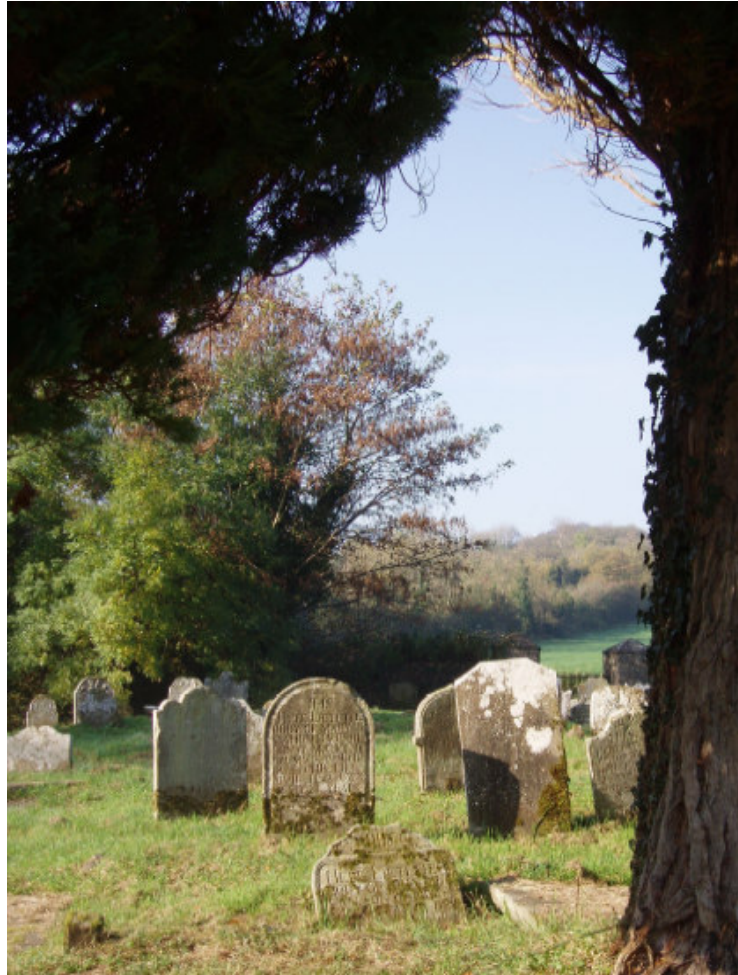


Report No. 14537.R01
November 2007

ERRIGAL TRUAGH, MULLANACROSS, CO MONAGHAN

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY



This is an action of the County Monaghan Heritage Plan 2006-2010



This project has been funded by the Heritage Council and Monaghan County Council

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Office of Community and Enterprise
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Market Street
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ERRIGAL TRUAGH, MULLANACROSS, CO MONAGHAN
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Conservation Management Strategy for Errigal Truagh, Mullanacross, Co Monaghan, provides a framework for the conservation and management of this historic ruined church and graveyard. The strategy draws together the immediately accessible background information about the place and sets out an understanding of that history and the significance of the place. Errigal Truagh is:

- **A sacred place of great antiquity**, a centre for worship and burial from perhaps as early as the 9th or 10th century AD;
- A site of **great historical and archaeological significance** for its remarkable collection of **gravestones, sheela-na-gig** and its **ruined church** which contains some surviving medieval fabric. All these elements are of importance for future historic and archaeological research;
- A site **linked** to a number of other ruined churches and graveyards in the south Ulster–north Monaghan area, including Donagh, Tedavnet and Drumsnat - a grouping known as the South Ulster style which creates a **rich historical and archaeological context**;
- A site (including a holy well) of **continued religious/devotional use**.

The Errigal Truagh Conservation Management Strategy includes an audit of constraints and vulnerabilities and identifies actions to mitigate against each constraint or vulnerability, all set within a broader conservation ethos or framework for decision-making.

These actions include:

- conservation of the gable walls of the ruined church;
- careful conservation of the site's enclosures, access patterns and pathways;
- continued survey and eventual collation for publication of all previous surveys of the gravestones, supported by management of the graveyard to maintain the stones in their present condition for as long as possible, and;
- enhancement of visitor facilities and site presentation.

2. UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

Project name and number Errigal Truagh Conservation Management Strategy; Gifford Project 14537

Name of Site Errigal Truagh

Monument types Church and Graveyard



Fig. 1: The west gable of the church at Errigal Truagh

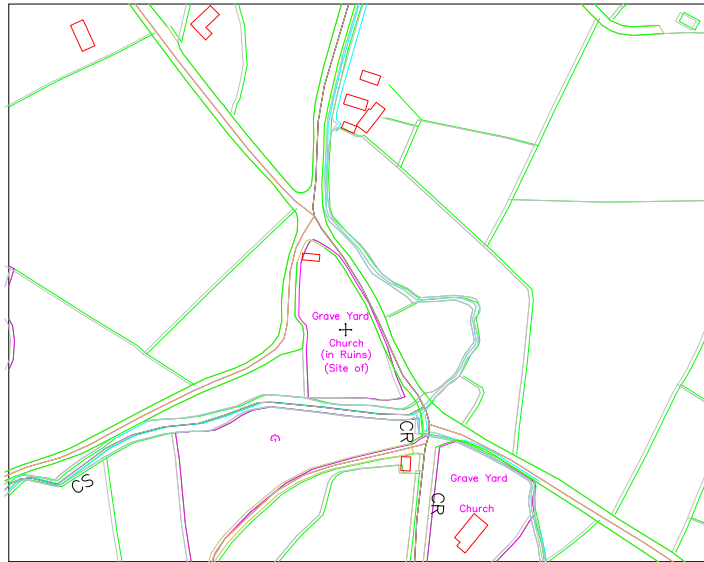


Fig. 2 The site today

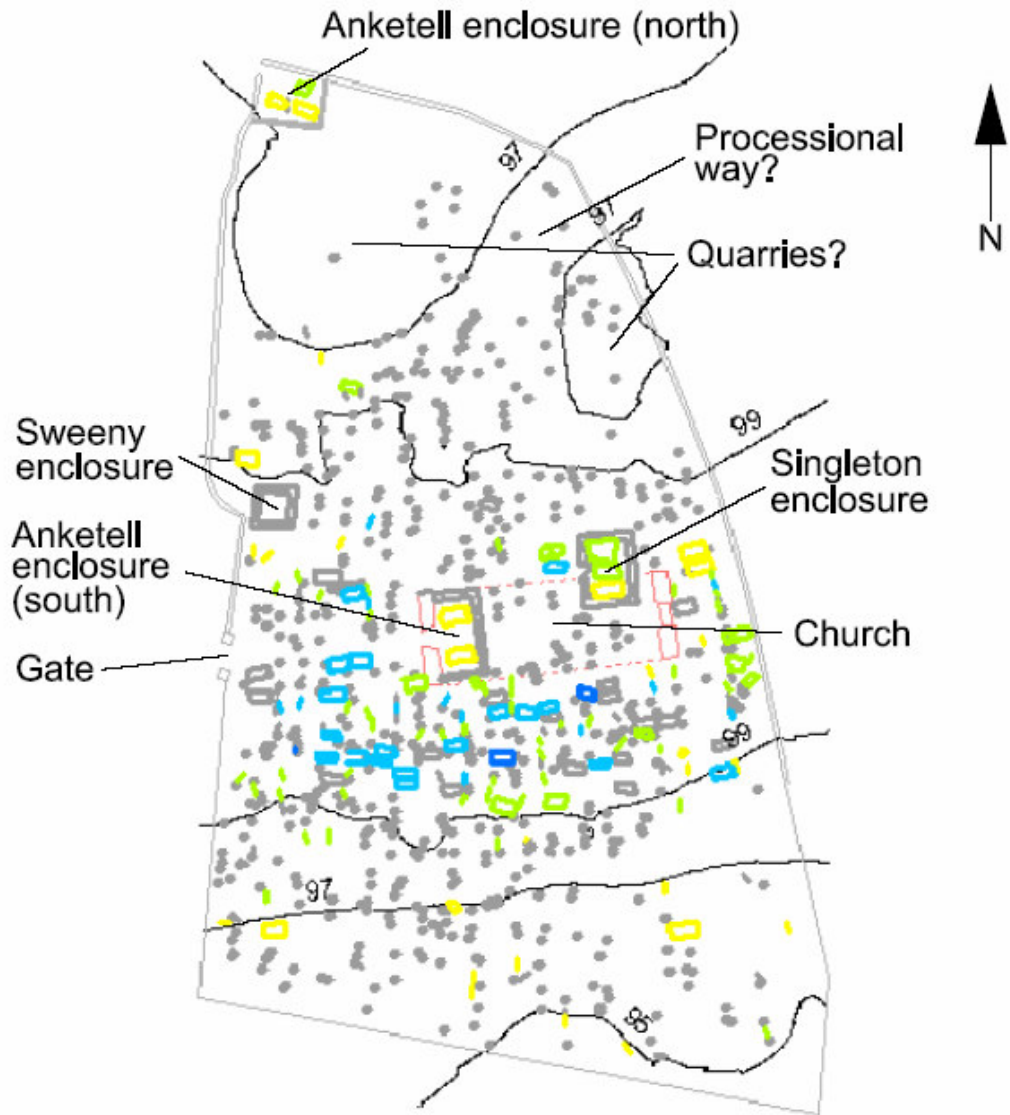


Fig. 3 University of York site survey plan (© University of York). Not to scale.

Legal Status and Source

Church (Recorded Monument [RMP])

Graveyard (Recorded Monument [RMP])

SMR Reference and Description

Church MO003-018002-

The following description is derived from the published *Archaeological Inventory of County Monaghan* (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1986). Date of upload/revision: 8 September 2006). The description is misleading because the orientation of the gables is not correct.

Gable walls and foundations of side walls of plain rectangular structure aligned E-W. Present entrance through E wall modern. Large window in W wall may be original. In ruins by 1622 according to Royal Visitation Papers (Leslie 1929, 196, 289). Two carved heads (MO003-018004, MO003-018005-), bracket coping and sheela-na-gig (MO003-018006-) now in Ulster Museum. (ITA Survey 1940).

Graveyard MO003-018003-

Townland	Mullanacross	
County	Co. Monaghan	
Country	Ireland	
NGR	Eastings	Northings
	266071 (centre)	349144 (centre)
Owner	Monaghan County Council is understood to be the owner.	
Client	Heritage Office, Monaghan County Council.	
Stakeholders	Monaghan County Council, Truagh Development Association	
Project Team	The Gifford project team comprised Dr Gerry Wait (Technical Director, Heritage and Archaeology) and Andy Shelley (Principal Archaeologist).	
Aims and Objectives	<p>The aims and objectives of the Conservation Management Strategy were to:</p> <p>Provide a framework for the conservation of the historic place of Errigal Truagh. A holistic examination of the site was to be undertaken to ensure that a full and broad understanding of the site could inform the policies the CMP should put forward in the plan.</p>	
Summary of the history of Errigal Truagh	<p>Errigal Truagh graveyard is one of a number of graveyards in South Ulster that fall readily into a recognisable group (others include Donagh, Drumsnat and Tedavnet). The patron saint of the parish is St. Mellan (or St. Muadain) and its church is assumed to be of early Christian foundation, although there is little hard evidence to support this. The place name of the townland is Mullanacross (Mullach na Croise, or summit of the cross), in which the 'na' element is indicative of a post- 9th- or 10th-century placename. It is a popular site for visitors, who are drawn by its collection of unique carved headstones. Over the years these have been steadily recorded, and the corpus is well-represented in print.</p>	
Property description, including boundary curtilage and associated structures	<p>The earliest above-ground remains in the churchyard are two gable walls of the church. Although both stand to nearly full height there is little architectural detailing remaining. The west wall contains a round-arched doorway, which has been remodelled in the past (during the Victorian period according to records held by the DoEHLG), while the east wall contains a broad triangular-headed lancet window devoid of much of its dressed stone detailing. The two side walls have in the past been visible, but are now obscured by sod. When they were visible it was apparent that the north wall was disturbed by three Victorian burials. The church was described in the Royal Visitation Report as a ruin in 1622.</p> <p>The graveyard, which is triangular in plan, is entirely enclosed by walling which for the most part is in good repair (Fig. 3). The main entrance lies to the west, and a small gap in the south-eastern wall forms a secondary entrance. The church lies at a crossroads and is therefore bounded on two sides by public roads. The third side is lined by a stream. The northernmost tip of the triangle is occupied by a former schoolhouse, in stone, and a car-park. This small building is now the Errigal Heritage Centre.</p>	
The post-medieval and later development of the site	<p>Síobhán McDermot, who is studying the site as part of a PhD project, feels that the walls that exist today date from the 18th century, and are broadly contemporary with the majority of the fine gravestones that the graveyard holds. This is based on, amongst other evidence, a map by McCree which shows the church to have been roofed during the 1700s.</p>	

However, close study of the walls reveals a slightly more complicated story. A number of anomalies exist which suggest that multiple phases of walling survive. In brief, these are a marked differential in width between the two gables, foreshortening of architectural details, and differences in build quality. The west gable is almost twice as thick as the east gable, whilst the east gable displays a plinth that is not replicated on the west gable. From this it may be tentatively concluded that the east gable is of later construction than the west gable, the plinth being the remnants of an earlier wall. The west gable, in itself, has a number of obvious differences in build, which are marked on Fig. 4.

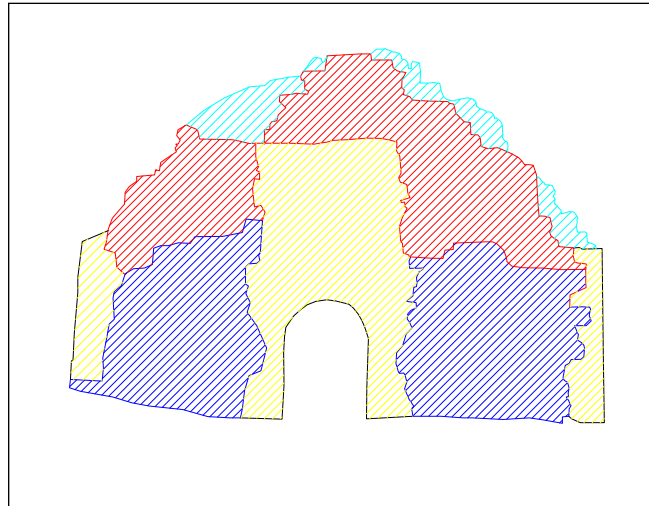


Fig. 4: Suggested construction sequence visible on the west-facing elevation of the west wall of the church (north to the left of the section)

A preliminary phasing based upon our observations provides the following build sequence;

Blue (Phase 1 Medieval). The lower part of the west gable, to the north of the door, and a smaller area to the south of the door, which are formed from large freestone blocks, not seen elsewhere, with at least one string course. Possibly also the base of the east gable.

Red (Phase 2 ?18th century). The majority of the east gable above the plinth and substantial parts of the upper west gable.

Yellow (Phase 3 19th century). The doorway in the west gable, the ends of both gables and the top of the west gable.

Cyan (Phase 4 19th or 20th centuries). A re-establishment of the west gable ridge line.

The 17th-century and later history of the site is, like the earlier periods, obscure but potentially interesting as an example of the interplay between the Protestant and Catholic faiths. After the new Protestant church was built in the 1830s burials were shifted to that site, but what of the period c. 1620 - 1830? A recent survey and review of the graveyard by Prof. H Mytum of the University of York suggests that there are far too few 17th-century and later burials for both faith-communities. It is possible that Prof Mytum's work will reveal answers, but other researchers should bear these issues in mind.

Along similar lines of questioning, there is little evidence for memorials within the church, as appear at other ruined church sites. The reason for this is not clear. What

does appear clear, however, is that the placing of enclosures to block the original western entrance to the church, and to cross and obscure the former northern wall adjacent to the eastern gable, presents to the visitor an alternative 'history' of use and control to that suggested by the number of important McKenna gravestones. Both could be interpreted as deliberate attempts to 'deny' the former church (c.f. Prof H Mytum pers. comm.).

A small number of stone artefacts associated with the church are held in various institutions. These include a 15th-century bracket stone from a gable with an inscribed horned cow head, a 15th-century Bishop's head with mitre which was originally built into a wall above a window and a rough and broken head, probably a window finial. Perhaps the most important artefact, a sheela-na-gig from the church, is now held in the Ulster Museum.



Fig. 5 Historic Map 1 OSI 6" (1829-41)

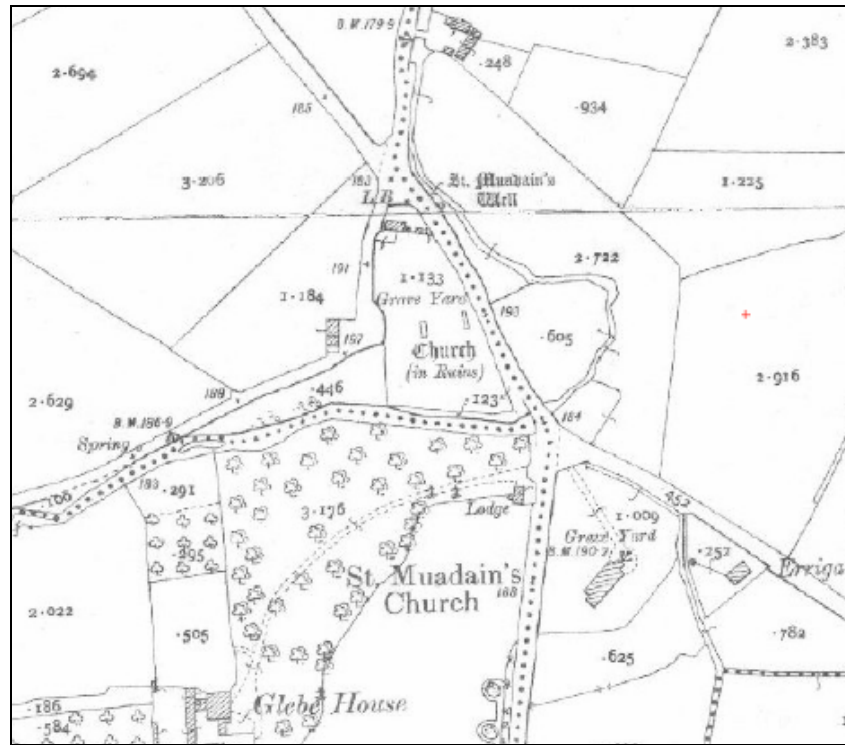


Fig. 6 Historic Map 2 OSI 6" (1829-42)



Fig. 7 Historic Map 3 OSI 25" (1897-1913)

The site has an elevated position, which falls away to the south and north, and dominates the elbow in the stream bed. Noticeable depressions in the ground

surface in the north-eastern corner of the site may be the result of former quarrying, perhaps to yield the stone from which the church is built. There are a number of mature trees, most notably yews.

There are several interesting aspects to this topography. First, the general topography leads one to suggest that the plan of the original burial enclosure might have been an east-to-west oriented oval perched on the top of this small summit. If this surmise is correct, remnants of an enclosing wall or bank may survive archaeologically, probably much interrupted by later burials. The second topographic consideration concerns the two hollows to the north of the ruined church, which may be the remains of former quarries (a theory again endorsed by Prof Mytum). These are separated by a ridge of high ground which projects from the church in the direction of the holy well beside the river.

The hollows clearly predate the eastern enclosure wall, and the northern hollow contains a number of gravestones and markers from the first quarter of the 19th century. Whilst apparent burials on top of the ridge may be the reason why the quarry did not eat into the ridge, an alternative suggestion is that the ridge was maintained whilst the quarries were in operation because it marked the line of an earlier processional way to the holy well. This interpretation is interesting, because many of these wells are 18th-century and later in date, which would possibly make the quarries later. These possible *terminus ante quem* and *terminus post quem* dates allow us to suggest that the quarries may have been dug to yield stone for an 18th-century rebuilding of the church.

The gravestones and burial enclosures form a much-studied group. The two local landowners, the Anketells and the Singletons, had separate, railed off areas. The McKenna family are also particularly well-represented. The coat-of-arms which appear on their gravestones illustrate the hunt which reputedly brought John McKenna to these parts. The shield depicts a hunter on horseback, two hounds, a stag, and two crescent moon, which represents the two nights of the hunt.

Both Anketell and Singleton plots feature ironwork which, although detailed, is not finely decorated.

**Current use
and
condition**

Redundant church and graveyard

**Previous
condition**

Until the mid-1990s the site was heavily overgrown with a persistent growth of 'butterbur' which covered the whole site to a height of several feet. This has now been attended to and easy passage is gained across the whole of the site. The appearance of the site confirms that essential maintenance works have been carried out in the past and that the west wall has been rebuilt since 1996 (when a Development Plan [unpublished] was produced).

**Legal
framework
and
restrictions**

The church and graveyard are both Recorded Monuments protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004. It is important to note that when the owner or occupier of a property, or any other person, proposes to carry out, or to cause, or to permit the carrying out of any work at or in relation to a Recorded Monument, they are required to give notice in writing to the Minister two months before commencing that work. The National Monuments Service of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government is required to advise on whether the works can be carried out and, if so, how.

Consultation Gifford have consulted with the following stakeholders in Errigal Truagh church and graveyard;

- Fr Sean Nolan, Truagh Development Association Ltd
- Ethne McCord, Truagh Development Association Ltd
- Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer, Monaghan County Council
- Professor Harold Mytum, York University
- Síobhán McDermot, University College Galway
- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

3. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The value of historic graveyards

Historic graveyards are intrinsically of value, and Errigal displays many of the aspects listed below:

- The history of a church and its graveyard is of value to archaeologists and others interested in the development, through time, of religious beliefs and changing attitudes to death, burial and remembrance. The authenticity of the monuments, the setting of the stones and the original location are therefore important.
- Inscriptions on gravestones provide precisely dated evidence of stone decay and deterioration.
- Gravestones are often the only documents of the lives of ordinary people; they reflect the community around each [churtyard] in different ways and in different times.
- Gravestones of notable people can often lead to strong associational value with a place.
- The gravestones and their inscriptions can offer fascinating insights into changing attitudes to death, burial and remembrance over recent centuries.
- The design and style of gravestones are of interest to art historians.
- Historic graveyards can sometimes be of environmental value as a refuge to wildlife.

(*c.f.* Historic Scotland's *Conservation of Historic Graveyards* 2001)

Significance of Errigal Truagh

Errigal Truagh are Recorded Monuments (MO003-018002 for the church and MO003-018003 for the graveyard with additional subsidiary elements). These designations recognise that the site and its contents are highly – indeed nationally - significant for a number of reasons including, *inter alia*, the ruined church with its surviving late-medieval and post-medieval fabric, and the extensive and highly decorated range of gravestones.

The cluster of related sites to which Errigal Truagh belongs is a wider context within which to recognise the significance of this place. These sites include Donagh, Drumsnat and Tedavnet in Co Monaghan, and Errigal Kieran and Carrenteel in neighbouring Co Tyrone.

The name and dedication of Errigal Truagh are, etymologically, of significance. Errigal is linked with the word 'oratory', and Truagh is the Gaelic word for 30 (perhaps as in the land division 30 hundred).

An early origin to this site may be supported by its possibly original oval plan form and its topographical setting.

In addition to this intrinsic significance, the place is also clearly of very great local importance to the community, an importance reflected in the activities and enthusiasm centred on the church. The restoration of the old schoolhouse is an excellent example of this local community support, as is the desire for the formulation of a Conservation Management Strategy to enable future decision-making.

A number of historic personalities are linked to the site, including John Hughes, who was born in Annaloghan and became the first Archbishop of New York. In addition, the site is a focus of the strong genealogical interest surrounding the McKenna clan, and also of folklore tradition (see, for example, Carleton's 'The Legend of the Churchyard Bride' [Appendix 1]).

Built Elements

Gifford has discussed the Errigal Truagh church and graveyard at some length with Prof. Mytum, and the discussion below has benefited from his insights. The significance of the component parts of the site may be expressed as follows:

The group of highly figurative **gravestones** of the McKenna family near the east gable is perhaps intrinsically the most important part of the assemblage because of their dating and the extensive range of diverse and well-executed figurative carvings that they incorporate.

A group of very early **priest's graves** with decorative gravestones near the west gable also use a number of interesting symbols and are of equal significance.

The general mass of **18th-century gravestones** have been surveyed and recorded twice (in The Clogher Record and by Prof. Mytum's team) and again exhibit a wide variety of carved motifs.

The recovery of a **sheela-na-gig** from this church site is a rare occurrence and is an important consideration when the origins of the site are debated.

The four **enclosures** provide an interesting and alternative 'history' to the site and are also very important. The Anketell's plot beside the Errigal Heritage Centre may be 'read' as denying the 'Catholicness' of the hill-top (Mytum pers comm.), while the other Anketell and Singleton enclosures are much more directly placed in opposition to the church.

The **ruins of the church** clearly date from more than one period. However, they are now fragmentary and their symbolic value may be judged to out-weigh their intrinsic significance.

The existing **graveyard enclosure walls** are not intrinsically important, although they are symbolically important.

No unusual or particularly important ecology was noted during the site visits which accompanied this report, but it should be remembered that graveyards generally, and particularly the less well-maintained areas of them, can provide a valuable habitat that should not be needlessly damaged by over-zealous maintenance.

In conclusion Errigal Truagh is:

- A sacred place of great antiquity and a centre for worship and burial from perhaps as early as the 9th or 10th centuries AD;
- A site of great historical and archaeological significance, exemplified by its outstanding collection of gravestones, sheela-na-gig and church ruins. All of these elements are of importance for future historic and archaeological research;
- A site linked by typology and tradition to a number of others in the south Ulster – north Monaghan area, including Donagh, Tedavnet and Drunsnat;
- A site (including the nearby holy well) of continued religious/devotional use.

4. ASSESSMENT OF VULNERABILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Constraints and Vulnerabilities Any works which take place within the site are governed by the requirements of the National Monuments Act 1930 - 2004. This is a necessary constraint, and one which delimits the type and nature of any work planned for 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.

The historic fabric which comprises the church and graveyard will require an ongoing maintenance regime, as with any historic structure. In this sense the site can be seen as potentially vulnerable should the funds and management to conduct this future work become unavailable.

The site is considered to be inherently unsuited to attempts for compliance with disability access requirements, and any proposals to improve such accessibility should be reviewed against potentially adverse changes to the character of the site.

Opportunities Previous effort has already been put into raising the profile of Errigal Truagh to visitors, and this effort has been and is embraced by the aspirations of Monaghan County Council. Monaghan Tourism, through its Interreg IIIA programme, has adopted a number of measures which broadly recognise the heritage opportunities of Errigal. The Interreg IIIA programme includes in its aims, under 'Priority 1 Measure 4 Rural Initiative'

- Improving access to historic sites
- Enhancement of walking and recreational amenities
- Heritage tourism project comprising signage programme at key historic sites and associated heritage marketing programme.

The *County Monaghan - Audit of Tourism Development Opportunities - 2007-2013* identifies a requirement for further targeted investment in;

Heritage, Environmental and Rural Culture Attractions: providing opportunities to invest in existing and new opportunities to showcase the county's heritage, environmental and rural culture assets and improving access to sites of historic significance.

Under this requirement the audit specifically identifies Errigal;

'Improved access and interpretation is required at Errigal old church and ancient graveyard and at St Mellon's Well and the Errigal Heritage Centre.'

Chapter 4 of the *County Monaghan - Audit of Tourism Development Opportunities - 2007-2013* identifies potential sources of funding for the proposals put forward in the report.

County Monaghan's Heritage Plan (2006-2010) seeks to address heritage issues in a strategic and co-ordinated way. Amongst its many actions which could be applied to Errigal Truagh, the following are particularly relevant;

1.4 Identify vacant or unused heritage buildings and develop strategy for their conservation;

1.22 Organise a community graveyard recording scheme, to include details of monument types, inscriptions, symbols *etc*;

2.11 Promote the understanding of archaeological monuments and sites among landowners and the general public;

2.15 Work with FÁS [Foras Áiseanna Saothair] and others to ensure that traditional conservation building skills are available in the county;

3.2 Examine possibilities for improving access for all to heritage sites;

3.3 Develop a network of themed heritage trails in the county, along disused railway line/canal/quiet roads and in towns and villages;

3.10 Undertake eight high profile conservation projects with local communities;

4.9 Develop a programme for schools to increase awareness and record diversity in the cultural traditions and history of the county;

6.6 Integrate peace and reconciliation considerations into heritage projects.

Further, the Truagh Development Association has recently issued a consultative document, *Truagh and Blackwater Valley: Outline Local Development Strategy* (issue October 2007). This document is underpinned by a desire by the local community to address the legacy of community and political division along with social and economic disadvantage by placing their shared heritage and culture at the heart of local development.

The local political climate is therefore a positive one in which to further develop the opportunities Errigal offers. Detailed discussion of these opportunities and recommendations are provided below, but may be summarised as a programme of phased works to ensure continued access to, conservation of, and interpretation and promotion of the site.

5. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

General Conservation Principles

The basic philosophical principle of this strategy is that the church and graveyard should continue to benefit from a long-term conservation programme, and it may be appropriate to consider a Quinquennial Review system to ensure that the momentum of such a programme is sustained. (A Quinquennial Review system is a formalised regular review of the many issues which may affect an historic property, including structural issues, maintenance, effects of various on-going activities and uses with the express intention of identifying necessary capital or repair works in good time, thus minimising costs and ensuring the long-term survival of the site or building (*c.f.* Appendix 2).

The programme should allow the church and graveyard to be managed in such a way as to maximise its spiritual, socio-cultural and leisure possibilities, and to provide enjoyment for individuals through an increased appreciation and understanding of the site. It should also be very firmly based upon ensuring that the site's character and fabric are preserved.

The management of the site should be undertaken in partnership with the range of stakeholder organisations consulted during the preparation of this strategy (and listed above).

General conservation 'best-practice' principles include:

- The preservation of the character of buildings and the site in general;
- The use of local materials (and re-use of fallen materials) wherever possible;
- The use of lime mortars and local vernacular materials for any new building works;
- That the repair and/or consolidation works should not jeopardize the future integrity of the buildings.

All conservation and management works should be based upon a detailed record derived from survey and, if necessary, intrusive investigations. This should provide a record of 'as found', and form the basis for informed conservation (*c.f.* Maxwell, Nanda & Urquhart 2001, ***Conservation of Historic Graveyards***, and Clarke 2001 ***Informed Conservation***). In practice, the majority of the fabric requires conservation-based repair and consolidation rather than extensive rebuilding.

Buried archaeological deposits are certain to survive within the site and should not be needlessly disturbed – and where an impact appears unavoidable a plan for mitigation by record and excavation should be developed in consultation with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG). An Archaeological Impact Assessment should be formulated, and consistently updated within the design process to ensure that recording and investigations are included within both design and development works.

The character of the site must not be adversely affected by any works – and with thoughtful planning, works to improve or restore the character may be welcomed by the National Monuments Section of the DoEHLG.

The history of the site should be presented to site users/visitors in order to place the church and gravestones into their historical context.

Conservation works should in the first instance safeguard the structural integrity of historic fabric on the site and restore weatherproofing. Thereafter, conservation should be directed in a priority order based upon a combination of significance and vulnerability.

For the sake of clarity the following definitions have been used in this strategy:

Maintenance means the continuous protective care of the cultural value of a place. It may relate to the maintenance of oral and/or customary tradition associated with a place or to the fabric, contents and setting of a place.

Preservation means maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding or slowing deterioration.

Restoration means returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

Reconstruction means returning a place to a known earlier state and is distinguished by the introduction of material (old or new) into the fabric.

Renewal means any action which renews, or revitalises, the cultural significance of the place. Sometimes these actions may affect the fabric or the physical aspects of the place.

Redevelopment means a combination of these five concepts applied appropriately to diverse aspects of a site so as to protect what is most significant without limiting the ability of future generations to use and enjoy the place as well.

Observations and Recommendations

The site (general)

The graveyard is currently maintained by FÁS. The present regime appears to be benign and our general observations and recommendations are limited to the following;

- Action 1 A policy of minimal change to nature conservancy within the graveyard should be adopted in order to preserve both the character of the site and its ecology.
- Action 2 It appears that care is being taken whilst strimming near gravestones, and this level of care should be continued. The site should remain grassed, and the level to which the grass is being cut, *i.e.* not closely trimmed, appears appropriate. Cuttings should be removed from the site. Lawnmowers should not be used because of the potential for damage to gravestones.
- Action 3 Vigilance should be maintained to ensure that invasive plants do not become established.
- Action 4 The south-western corner of the graveyard would be suitable for an area where bramble and nettle could be allowed to develop to the benefit of wildlife.
- The use of herbicides, pesticides and other chemicals should continue to be

- Action 5 limited.
- Action 6 The site does not appear to be subject to vandalism or theft. Monitoring of the site should continue, and if these problems appear a number of options can be considered. These include changes to the maintenance regime, fencing and enhanced community support.

Survey and Recording

- Action 7 It is recommended that a measured drawn survey of the church gable walls and the four enclosures is undertaken by an archaeologist who is familiar with standards and techniques of such an exercise. The purpose of the survey would be to provide a permanent, archivable set of drawings which record the church fabric prior to conservation works, and act as a guide to those works.

Gifford estimate that such a survey could be undertaken by two competent archaeologists within 10 days. A possible cost for this work, to include the use of safe access systems, would be in the region of c. €10,000.

Church walls

Only the two gable end walls – west and east – of the church survive.

West gable

The west gable wall is in need of remedial works in order to maintain its structural integrity. These comprise;

- Action 8 Removal of the vegetation that has developed along the ridge line and which comprises grass and ivy (**Figs 8 and 9**). This should be done progressively, as detailed in Action 20, and only after a programme of conservation is in place.
- Action 9 Conservation work to the gable ridge-lines, to comprise localised replacement of missing stones, securing of others that are currently loose and repointing with a lime-based mortar. It should be noted that the aim here is not to effect a return the original pitch lines, but merely to provide consolidation of what remains.
- Action 10 Stabilising the large crack at the south end of the wall (**Fig. 10**) by pinning from the south side (using the CINTEC anchoring system or similar (www.cintec.com) before partially filling any gaps with stone (preferably the stone lying around the base of the wall) and a lime-based mortar.
- Action 11 Stabilising and conserving the quoinwork at the northern end of the wall, where there is movement (**Fig. 11**).
- Action 12 Rebuilding the northern jamb of the doorway (**Figs 12 and 13**). This has deflected, possibly because of the gate's instability. Sympathetic infilling of the large crack that has developed should also be undertaken (preferably with loose stone lying around the graveyard) and gaps repointed with a lime-based mortar.

Action 13 Repointing work elsewhere on the gable where required. This to comprise sympathetic infilling of large gaps and deep-sunken repointing. As elsewhere, the aim is not to restore the church to an original condition but instead to consolidate and stabilise stonework that might otherwise move.

Action 14 The infilling above the doorway, which is evident on both elevations, appears relatively stable and should be retained (**Figs 14 and 15**). Localised repointing and stone infilling may, on closer inspection, prove to be required, but if this work is needed care must be taken to retain the reveal, which demonstrates that the infilling is a later addition.

East gable

Action 15 The ivy appears to be the most imminent problem (**Fig. 16**), especially since it is growing from the wall itself rather than the ground. However, as detailed in Action 20, no attempt should be made to address the problem until a programme of conservation works is in place. Heavy trimming of the ivy in the interim is not to be recommended as this will encourage new and more vigorous growth, although a very light trim might be beneficial. As with any maintenance or conservation works on the site the correct access equipment should be used and health and safety procedures followed. It is not advisable, for example, to prop ladders against the masonry, since this may be unsafe and may destabilise precarious fabric.

Action 16 Once a programme of conservation has been agreed the ivy should be cut at the roots and, once dead, progressively removed.

Action 17 The south gable end displays a similar crack to those visible in the west gable (**Fig. 17**), and should be treated in a similar manner.

Action: monitor Consolidation of the arch appears to have occurred in the recent past, but it may be that once the ivy has been removed a need for more consolidation may become apparent. This should be done in the same manner as detailed for the west gable, *i.e.* sensitively, with the aim of consolidation rather than restoration.

Trees

Action 18 Mature trees enhance the appearance of graveyards and provide a habitat for wildlife (**Front cover**). Unfortunately, tree and shrub roots are potentially damaging to any masonry, and this is particularly the case where trees are growing close to the church gables (**Fig. 18**). A regime of regular pruning should be maintained, and in the case of the west gable the fir tree should be lopped by a tree surgeon, after consultation with Monaghan County Council's Heritage Officer and an arborist.

Action: monitor Falling branches and trees are a hazard to the public and monuments alike. Regular tree maintenance is therefore essential and work to the collection of trees in the north-eastern part of the graveyard, where a Rowan has partially fallen, is now required (**Fig. 19**). However, the retention of dead trees is beneficial to natural habitats, and a policy of clearance should be weighed against the potential for encouraging the quality and diversity of wildlife.

Action 20 A tree along the eastern side of the graveyard has recently been felled and its

remnants require clearing away (**Fig. 20**). The stump should not however be removed, since this might cause damage to surrounding graves and grave-markers, and should instead be treated to accelerate the rotting process.

Ivy

Ivy-covered ruins contribute to the sense of gentle decay which characterises graveyards. They may also be homes to bats or owls. Moreover, injudicious removal of ivy can destabilise a structure and accelerate the rate of collapse. Ultimately, however, retention of ivy will also hasten decay of the fabric.

Action 21 Removal of the ivy from the gables of the church should only begin when funds and a timetable are in place to conserve the fabric that will be exposed. Once these are in place the roots should be cut at ground level and the plant allowed to die back (this process can be accelerated using suitable herbicides). Once dead, the ivy should be removed from the top downwards, and the fabric which is exposed conserved at the same time. Conservation should concentrate on sensitive and agreed re-pointing with a lime-based mortar, thus stabilising any loose masonry.

New planting

Action: monitor The *Errigal Truagh Development Plan* (1996) suggested that a campaign of tree planting be conducted. This does not appear to have occurred, and whilst it may still be considered desirable, it is Gifford's opinion that planting should be limited to replacement of over-mature or dead specimens. Thought and consideration is required before this occurs, because not all tree species are suitable for such environments. There are several tree species which are suitable, most obviously yews, ash, wild cherry and other native species (The custom of planting yews in churchyards seems to have come with Christianity to Ireland, in imitation of Mediterranean cemeteries with cypress and laurel).

Paths

Action: monitor Historically, rural graveyards did not originally have formal paths, and the introduction of such should be resisted. If pedestrian traffic increases sufficiently natural paths will in any case develop, and on routes that have found to be most suitable. A good example of this is seen as Tedavnet (**Fig. 21**).

Footpath from the car-park

Errigal Truagh Development Association is keen to see a lit footpath established between the Errigal Heritage Centre and the new car-park to the south of St Muadain. Whilst this study is not charged with producing the access audit which would need to be undertaken to inform further decisions, it is clear that any roadside footpath would be difficult to establish, and with or without lighting would not be in keeping with the rural aspect of the site which we would be keen to see maintained.

Action: for consideration

However, it is obviously desirable to keep the visitor and regular users of the Errigal Heritage Centre away from traffic wherever possible. A viable alternative may therefore be to establish a pedestrian link by the following route;

- (i) From the car-park cross a small ditch by means of a simple bridge and enter St Muadain's graveyard.
- (ii) Cross the southern part of St Muadain's graveyard, perhaps by a simple gravel path, to connect with the hard-surfaced path from the church to its entrance gates.
- (iii) Cross the Tedavnet road and cross the river by means of a new footbridge to the west of the present road bridge (**Fig. 22**).
- (iv) From here, use the existing road, or enter Errigal graveyard by means of a new kissing gate. A third alternative (which was rehearsed in the 1996 Development Plan) is to establish a footpath between the road and the river, to emerge via St Muadain's Holy Well.

One of the advantages of this route is that it would help link the two churches in the visitor's mind, and would include St Muadain in an overall appreciation of the importance of churches and graveyards to the community.

An alternative to a footpath is to enlarge the car-park which is sited beside the west gate and which currently has space for approximately six vehicles. Care would need to be taken, however, not to disturb any archaeological deposits which may extend beyond the current limits of the graveyard to the west.

Gravestones

The majority of the gravestones appear to be in good repair and are easily accessible (**Fig. 23**). Some, however, have sustained damage in antiquity, and this is especially true of some of the grave slabs (**Fig. 24**). Whilst this damage is unfortunate, repairs would be expensive and they are consequently thought to be unnecessary at this time.

It is important to note, however, that a number of the gravestones appear to be significantly less legible than when they were recorded by Dr Mulligan, Fr McEntee and Mr McMahon for their article 'Memorials in Old Errigal Cemetery County Monaghan' (The Clogher Record 1987). This suggests an increased rate of decay to the stone, which may be the result of one or more of the following:

- Increased atmospheric pollution;
- Mechanical cleaning;
- The use of herbicides.

Whatever the reason, it brings into focus the need to maintain vigilance in the continuing care of these important monuments.

Action 22

Despite the temptation, there appears to be no need to right any of the fallen grave-markers. The effects of time and weathering are a key characteristic of graveyards, and suit their character of gentle decay. Gravestones should not be raised or straightened, unless by doing so their structural integrity can be stabilised, and they should not be cleaned. Moss and lichen also add to the character of graveyards (**Fig. 25**), and here do not appear to be obscuring

- Action: monitor inscriptions (possibly because they have already been removed to aid recording). Some lichens damage stonework, and it might be beneficial to consult a lichenologist to ascertain whether the Errigal lichens are benign or not. Mosses are generally sympathetic to gravestones and should only be removed if there is clear evidence that the growths are having a detrimental effect on the integrity of the stone.
- Action 23
 Any conservation measures which are required to make markers safe must be designed to slow down the rates of deterioration, and not to effect a restoration.
- Action: monitor
 The most effective policy is to take steps to ensure that no further damage is caused by visitors, falling trees or masonry.
- Action 24
 The inscriptions on all grave markers will eventually through time become illegible. Only in a small number of cases is it sometimes advisable to remove markers from the effects of weathering or from the possibility of theft. In the case of Errigal all the grave markers have been, or are being, recorded in great detail and this record will in time form the only means by which markers may be read. Steps should therefore be taken to ensure that this record is complete, freely available to stakeholding organisations (in particular the Truagh Development Association Ltd) and permanently archived in accessible forms.
- Action: for consideration
 Additionally, it might be thought appropriate to investigate the use of laser scanning techniques to record the gravestones, since this method would result in digital data which could be readily used to fabricate replica gravestones in the future.
- Action: monitor
 The risk of theft does not appear at this time to be a problem at this site. However, steps should be taken to monitor the safe-keeping of the grave markers, perhaps by raising awareness with the local Garda Síochána and the community.
- Action 25
 Any decorated stones which have become detached from their original position should be removed for safe keeping to Errigal Heritage Centre (if space permits). A policy of removing artefacts to remote locations is not to be encouraged because of the chances of loss.

Enclosures

The graveyard houses four enclosures. These are dealt with in turn;

Sweeny enclosure

- Action 26
 The Sweeny enclosure was rebuilt in 1980. It is not known whether its freestone crenellations were an original feature, although they appear out of character, and have been attached with an unsympathetic cement (**Fig. 26**). The 'small bush' noted in the 1996 Errigal Trough Development Plan is now sizeable, and needs careful removal immediately. The undergrowth within the enclosure (**Fig. 27**) also needs careful removal and, after careful inspection by an archaeologist, any loose and undecorated rubble removed for storage elsewhere.

Anketell enclosure (south)

- Action 27 This plot sits behind the west gable of the church, and uses the former entrance to the church as its access (**Figs 13, 18 and 28**). It comprises cast ironwork railings set in three dwarf stone walls, randomly coursed (**Figs 29 and 30**). The walls are generally in good order, although the coping stones (which contain the legend 'The burial place of the Ancketills or Ankettells of Cassaughmone and Dernamuck 1687 to 1839'), need remedial works. This should comprise a re-setting in a lime-based mortar. It is possible that some of the coping stones are missing and these should not be replaced with new items without thought being given to what is trying to be achieved.
- The cast ironwork to the various family enclosures is an important part of their character. Unfortunately it is in the main in poor condition and now in need of urgent remedial work. Some of the railing uprights around the Anketell plot, and their finials, are damaged or missing. However, these omissions, although regrettable, do not overly detract from the sense of enclosure that the railings are designed to impart, and it is not necessary at this time to replace them.
- Action 28 What is necessary is some urgent remedial conservation work, as follows;
- (i) Wire brush off flaking paint and surface rust and treat with proprietary rust-killer.
 - (ii) Paint with a micaceous iron-oxide build coat
 - (iii) Finish with two coats of black gloss.
- It is unlikely that the railings were treated to decorative paintwork when they were installed, and the temptation to do so now should be resisted.
- Action: monitor Over time, the base of the uprights, which are in a very corroded condition, will rot out, and at this time the railings will need to be removed and fully renovated.
- Action 29 The gate into the Anketell enclosure (**Fig. 13**) needs urgent remedial attention. Its bottom hinge has separated from the jamb, and the weight of the gate on the sole remaining hinge may be causing structural movement to the jamb. Since the ironwork of the gate is in poor condition, it will need substantial restoration. In the short term, therefore, the gate needs to be removed and put into safe storage on or near the site.
- Action 30 The interior of the plot is overgrown, and needs clearance (**Fig. 31**). During the clearance any stonework (such as missing copings) or architectural ironwork (such as the heads of the railing uprights) should be removed and carefully stored elsewhere on the site for later re-use.
- Action: monitor It is probably not necessary or desirable to rearrange or re-order any of the table tombs, but this may become clearer once the plot has been cleared of vegetation.
- Anketell enclosure (north)**
- Action 31 This Anketell plot is in a state of advanced dereliction (**Fig. 32**), although the gate and west wall are in good order. The enclosure should be cleared of the vegetation which has developed, and the rhododendrons and firs which have taken root in the eastern wall should be removed.
- Action 32 It is probably desirable to rebuild the east wall, and it appears that much of its original fabric may lie hidden in the undergrowth and within the enclosure itself.

- Action 33 The gate is in good structural repair but now requires re-painting and its bolt replacing.
- Action 34 The table slabs within the enclosure are in a very poor state of repair. Once the undergrowth has been cleared their condition should be assessed by a conservation engineer, and a decision made on whether to embark on a structural repair programme. However, any substantive reconstruction works to the table tops (which will involve drilling, pinning and rebonding broken sections together) will be expensive.
- Action 35 Whilst this is an important enclosure in the development of the graveyard, it can be easily viewed from the roadway. The simplest solution to the problem of further damaging the masonry within the plot is to keep the gate locked, and to provide full details of the inscriptions in the Heritage Centre.

Singleton enclosure

This free-standing plot is in a generally poor state of repair. The railings are in disarray, their supporting dwarf wall has collapsed in several places and the interior is overgrown (**Figs 33 and 34**).

The following work is urgently required;

- Action 36 The interior needs to be cleared of the undergrowth and trees that have been allowed to grow. This work, as elsewhere, must be conducted sensitively, and any loose stonework or ironwork retained in a safe place (preferably on-site) for swift re-use. The ivy which is covering the dwarf walls should only be killed and removed once a timetable for conservation of the walls is in place.
- Action 37 The dwarf wall around the enclosure has fallen in several places. Repairs will not be possible until the railings have been removed. This needs to be done sensitively, and a survey drawing of their configuration should be completed by a professional before the work commences. Those railings that haven't already been dislodged during the collapse of the dwarf walls should be removed by melting their lead fixings, and separated into their component forms (if this is achievable).
- Action 38 The north and west walls need partial or total rebuilding (**Fig. 35**). This should be undertaken by removing all loose stonework (the position of which should have been recorded by a professional before the work commences) and rebuilding it using the same mortar-type as the original. The copings, where available, should be reset. Initial undergrowth clearance may reveal some of the stonework which appears to be missing.
- Action 39 The condition of the railings and gate is problematic. They need to be dismantled to effect proper repairs to their support wall, but also need substantial renovation work in their own right. Sections, especially on the north elevation, appear to be missing, although they may lie hidden in undergrowth. It will be expensive to replace the missing sections, which are in cast iron and have decorative elements to patterns which foundries may no longer hold. Equally, however, they do contribute to the character of the enclosure, and it is not advisable to remove them from the site unless there is a programme in

place to return them quickly. (We do not recommend removal from the site of any fabric unless there is a clearly identified return date because of the potential for artefacts to become lost). It may also not be advisable to replace suitably renovated sections unless a complete circuit can be attained, because of structural integrity issues.

Action 40

The optimum solution is therefore to renovate and conserve the railings, and to replace their missing sections with newly-cast sections to the original patterns, before restoring them to their original positions.

It was not possible during the site visit to determine the condition of tombs within the enclosure because of the extent of the undergrowth. Once this has been cleared it will be necessary to plan what further remedial work (if any) is required by the tombs.

Boundary walls

South wall

No remedial works are necessary to this wall, which appears to be good condition.

West wall (south of the gate)

The south-western wall of the graveyard is in a state of disrepair (**Fig. 36**). Whilst it could be rebuilt, such an exercise would seem to serve little real purpose. Instead we would concur with the suggestion made in the 1996 Errigal Truagh Development Plan that the existing hedge be retained.

Gate

Action: 41

The gate in the west wall is generally in a good state of repair, and appears to be relatively new. However, it now needs treating with red oxide primer and repainting in black gloss. Minor repairs are also required (**Fig. 37**).

West wall (north of the gate)

Action 42

This wall has been recently built and is consequently in good condition (**Fig. 38**). However, the coping is missing (see **Fig. 39**) and this has led to the initial stages of deterioration of the wall. It is not known whether coping was part of the original build works (although the thin layer of cement on the top of the wall suggests that it was). We recommend that a coping in a sympathetic masonry fabric be added to the wall.

North wall

Action 43

This wall is in good repair, and appears fairly recent (**Fig. 40**). The 1996 Development Plan suggested that a pedestrian entrance to the graveyard be inserted in this wall, to alleviate the need for visitors to Errigal Truagh Heritage Centre having to walk along the roadway which borders the western side of the site. This has not taken place, and is still desirable.

East wall

This wall is in places rendered and, along one stretch, is supported by buttresses (**Fig 41**). Most of the wall is in stone although a block parapet has been added to the central section. One of the buttresses is now in need of repair (**Fig. 42**), as is a section of wall that displays significant movement (**Fig. 43**). At this point the render should be locally removed to determine the extent and seriousness of the cracking. If the crack extends through the wall it should be tied with Helifix bars or similar before refinishing works being undertaken.

The ivy which is growing on various stretches of the wall can be retained.

Visitor facilities and promotion

It is recognised by the client group that the site needs more effective promotion, notwithstanding that much useful work has already been undertaken in this matter. The development of Errigal Heritage Centre, and the provision of brown finger posts guiding visitors to the site, is to be praised, and provides a firm basis from which to move forward.

Additionally, we concur with the Errigal Truagh Graveyard Development Plan (1996), which set out appropriate and achievable objectives for the site's development. Its observation that a *'significant feature of the site is that it is one of a suite of graveyards in the region, straddling the border'* remains pertinent today, as does its statement that if *'the most is to be made of these, it should be done in a co-ordinated way, linking them through group marketing, a unified signage system, and information services, as well as a group maintenance scheme.'*

The Development Plan also recognised that the site is *'never going to be a major tourist site, but appropriate marketing by the regional tourism body, signage and a simple brochure made available at regional Tourist Information Offices and visitor attractions on both sides of the border, it will attract a steady stream of specialist visitors, interested in archaeological and historical sites.'* It was felt that *'this number is likely to remain under ten thousand per annum for the foreseeable future, and is likely to be established at around 3,000'* and we find no reason to disagree.

The points made in the Errigal Truagh Development Plan remain valid. However, there is a need to develop the aims and aspirations set out in that report, most particularly in the areas of the visitor experience. For this reason, there should be a staged approach to promoting the site and improving the visitor experience. This approach is built from a number of questions and answers.

1 Is the site safe for visitors?

The site appears to be generally safe for visitors, although consideration of a new pedestrian route from the car-park to the graveyard is desirable. The masonry appears to be stable, but any loose masonry on the ground might be cleared to prevent unnecessary trip hazards. However, most masonry is embedded in the ground (**Fig. 44**) and represents the bases of broken gravestones. These should be left in place and it must be recognised therefore that some risks to the visitor will be inevitable. Unsafe trees branches need to be removed as part of the ongoing maintenance regime.

2 Is the site accessible to all members of the community?

The site is not particularly suitable for wheelchair users or the sight-impaired.

Action 45

3 *Is the significance and interest of the site explained?*

At present there is no information on offer to the visitor. One or more interpretation panels should be prepared, and sited in sympathetic locations such as the entrances. Panels should not be attached to the historic masonry. A slide show or video should be prepared for viewing in the Errigal Heritage Centre.

Action 46

4 *Is Errigal Heritage Centre fully utilised?*

The former schoolhouse should contain permanent interpretation panels on the site, and others nearby, that will help the visitor understand the site, the schoolhouse and the local community that they served. The panels should also point the visitor in the direction of other sites in the vicinity.

Action 47

5 *Are the public aware of the site and its interest?*

The site, and the suite of similar graveyards in the area, should be promoted through a page on the websites of the local authorities for Counties Monaghan, Tyrone and Armagh. Leaflets should be written and made available at tourist information centres and destinations.

6 *Are the educational possibilities of the site being used?*

We understand that the educational and cross-community development possibilities and opportunities of the site have previously been exploited in a successful manner, but that these have lapsed in recent years. These opportunities will only be useful if community leaders are aware of them, and are given help to use them. A teacher's pack should be prepared, and a local authority officer briefed on the possibilities inherent in the understanding of the sites' historical and natural and built heritage qualities.

6. PREVIOUS STUDIES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Author	Title and Publisher	Year
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Heritage Planning & Design Services	<i>Errigal Truagh Graveyard Development Plan</i> (unpublished)	1996
Mulligan, P., McEntee, P & McMahon, T.	'Memorials in Old Errigal Cemetery County Monaghan', Clogher Record 1987, Vol 12 No. 3, pp 372-387	1987
The Office of Public Works	<i>The Care and Conservation of Graveyards</i> (Office of Public Works)	1995
McDermott, S.	<i>Changing Iconic Landscapes: A settlement study of Truagh, Co. Monaghan, c.1500-c.1921</i>	in prep.
Maxwell, I., Nanda, R and Urquhart, D.	<i>Conservation of Historic Graveyards: Guide for Practitioners 2</i> , Historic Scotland	2001
Hamlin, A.	<i>The Care of Graveyards</i> (Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland)	1983

7. IMAGES



Fig. 8 The east-facing elevation of the west gable. The large crack in the foreground has resulted in the end of the wall becoming detached from the main panel of masonry. We would suggest that the end of the wall be pinned back to the main panel and the void infilled. The vegetative growth along the top of the wall requires removal and any loose capping stones discovered re-bedded.



Fig. 9 Ivy and grass have become established on the top of the west gable wall. This should be removed and the masonry conserved



Fig. 10 Close-up of the severe crack in the east-facing elevation of the west gable of the church. The detached end of the wall needs to be pinned back to the main panel of masonry and the void infilled



Fig. 11 A large crack and is also apparent at the north end of the west gable. This needs stabilising and conserving



Fig. 12 Detail of the movement in the north jamb of the doorway in the west gable. The gate should be temporarily taken down to enable conservation works to the wall to take place. Once the wall has been consolidated the gate can then be re-hung



Fig. 13 Gate into the Anketell plot. This needs urgent removal and refurbishment



Fig. 14 Inner elevation of doorway through the west gable of the church



Fig. 15 West-facing elevation of west gable of the church



Fig. 16 The east gable of the church is heavily overgrown with ivy



Fig. 17 The south gable end of the east gable also displays movement and needs remedial work



Fig. 18 The fir tree to the north of the church gable will eventually cause problems without regular pruning



Fig. 19 A Rowan in the north-east corner of the graveyard requires attention



Fig. 20 Recently-felled tree in the south-eastern part of the graveyard. This needs careful clearance, although the stump should be left.

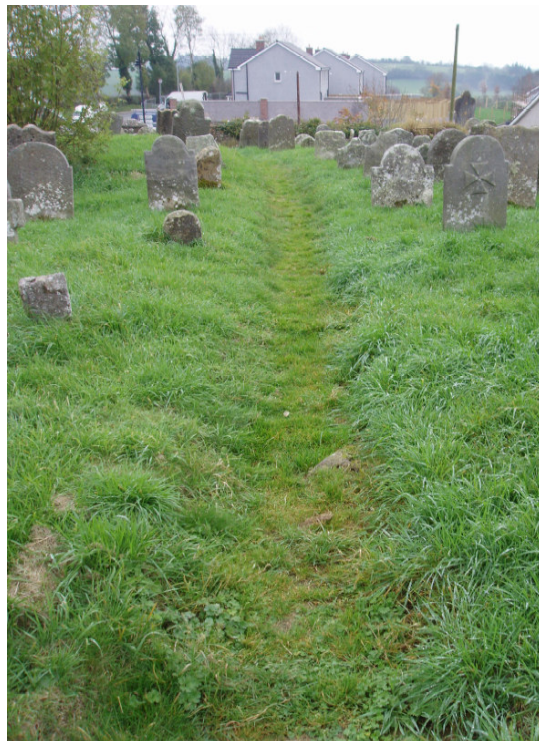


Fig. 21 An example of a churchyard path which is sympathetic to its rural surroundings. This is at Tedavnet burial ground



Fig. 22 One location for a possible footpath from the car-park to Errigal Truagh graveyard



Fig. 23 Most gravestones are in good order



Fig. 24 Some of the grave slabs have been broken



Fig. 25 Moss and lichen cover some of the gravestones. Expert advice should be sought on whether this will eventually cause damage to the stonework



Fig. 26 The Sweeny enclosure. This has an inscribed doorway lintel which reads 'Arise ye dead and come to Judgement'. Rebuilt in 1980



Fig. 27 Interior of the Sweeny enclosure



Fig. 28 The Anketell enclosure is situated behind the west gable of the church



Fig. 29 Railings around the Anketell plot



Fig. 30 Detail showing the extent of corrosion to the railings around the Anketell plot



Fig. 31 The interior of the Anketell plot is overgrown and needs clearing



Fig. 32 Anketell plot (north)



Fig. 33 The Singleton plot



Fig. 34 The railings around the Singleton plot are in a state of disarray



Fig. 35 The north wall of the Singleton plot has collapsed and needs urgent remedial attention



Fig. 36 The south-western boundary wall has collapsed



Fig. 37 The main gate into the graveyard needs refurbishing



Fig. 38 The west wall of the graveyard has been rebuilt in the recent past



Fig. 39 The coping from the wall is missing and should be replaced



Fig. 40 The north wall of the graveyard is in good repair. A pedestrian entrance could be added at this point in the wall circuit



Fig. 41 The east wall of the graveyard has had buttresses added in an effort to retain the wall



Fig. 42 Detail of the buttress which requires attention. An inspection of the existing walls foundations should be undertaken prior to specifying what actions regarding any future buttressing works to the wall are required



Fig. 43 There is movement in the east wall of the graveyard. The cause of the crack needs to be ascertained to confirm what measures need to be instigated in the future to prevent further damage to the wall. Structural Report on wall recommended



Fig. 44 Trip hazard. These stones, the base of damaged grave-markers, should be left *in situ*

8. APPENDIX 1 THE LEGEND OF THE CHURCHYARD BRIDE

by Father James E. McKenna

A very interesting legend connected with Errigal graveyard in Co. Monaghan would have probably perished with the other folklore of the locality had not Carleton enshrined it in his beautiful ballad, "The Churchyard Bride".

It was commonly believed in the neighbourhood a century ago, that Errigal graveyard was haunted by an amorous spirit which appeared occasionally to young people whose relatives were buried here; and its appearance was always an omen of death to those who had the misfortune to encounter it. When a funeral took place it accosted the young person who remained last in the graveyard, over whom it exercised a fascinating influence. If that person was a young man, it appeared as a charming maiden, inspired him with an irresistible affection and extracted a promise that he should meet her there, on that day a month later. When, on the contrary, it appeared to a girl, it assumed the appearance of a graceful and attractive young man and secured a similar promise.

"If I to thy youthful heart am dear, one month from hence thou shalt meet me here."

This promise was always sealed by a kiss, in which the poison of death was communicated to the mortal who received it. The lovers parted, but no sooner had the victim passed the boundary of the graveyard, then he or she recollected the history of the graveyard spectre and abandoned all hope of life. Death in all cases supervened and the victims' remains were carried to the graveyard on the day the fatal tryst was to have been kept.

"The month is closed and green Truaghs pride,
Killeevy' O Killeevy'
Is married in death, and side-by-side he slumbers
now with his churchyard bride,
By the bonnie green woods of Killeevy."

Carleton, in a note to his ballad, writes: " I was shown the grave of a young person about eighteen years of age, who was said, about four months before, to have fallen a victim to it, and not many months previously a man in the same parish declared that he had given the promise and the fatal kiss, and consequently looked upon himself as lost. He took fever, died, and was buried on the day appointed for the meeting, which was exactly a month from the interview. Incredible as it may appear, the friends of those two persons declared (at least those of the young man did), to myself that the particulars of the meeting were detailed repeatedly by the two persons, without the slightest variation."

There are several cases of the same kind mentioned but the two now alluded to, are the only ones that came within my personal knowledge. It appears, however, that the spectre does not confine its operations to the graveyard only, as there have been instances mentioned of its appearance at weddings and dances, where it never failed to secure its victims by dancing them into pleuritic fevers.

This quaint belief is seldom, if ever mentioned in the locality at present, and as we have said, if it had not been for Carleton, it would probably have been forgotten with the host of beautiful folktales that were familiar around the firesides of Errigal Truagh.

The fact that the spectre was supposed to attend weddings and dances, suggests a motive for the legend, among a people who have been noted at times, for the jealous care with which they safe guarded the innocence and purity of their young people. The fear of the spectre lover was well calculated to make young people of both sexes very cautious about forming intimate acquaintance with strangers.

Resources: Edited and adapted from The Irish Heritage newsletter who shared this story by Fr. James E .McKenna from the "The Parishes of Clogher"(1921).

9. APPENDIX 2 EXAMPLES OF QUINQUENNIAL SURVEYS OR INSPECTIONS

Quinquennial Property Checklist

While it is not necessarily appropriate for all situations, the future monitoring of a building is usually made much easier by establishing such a list at the beginning of an inspection cycle and then sticking to it.

It is hoped that this checklist will enable those who are not professionally qualified, to understand what is needed and for a qualified surveyor some idea of the required scope of the work, and to give an order of priorities arising from the inspection.

1. PREMISES IDENTIFICATION

Please give the following details at the beginning of your report:

- a: name and address of Meeting House or property;
- b: Monthly Meeting are ...

Please refer to the previous quinquennial inspection report. It is helpful if an Ordnance Survey extract, site plans, simple floor plans and, if available current photographs, could be usefully incorporated to provide records. The particulars in 2 and 3 need not be given if previously noted in earlier reports.

2. PARTICULARS OF SITE

- a: give basic dimensions (frontage, depth)
- b: state nature of pedestrian access
- c: what vehicular access is there?
- d: what parking facilities are available?
- e: can the disabled access easily?
- f: is there any spare land?
- g: is there a burial ground and is it open or closed?

3. PARTICULARS OF PREMISES

- a: full address
- b: age of building(s)
- c: brief description, design and construction
- d: size/approximate dimensions
- e: number of storeys
- f: accommodation, dimensions, approx. floor area
- g: access and facilities for the disabled
- h: any special features (architectural)
- i: is the building listed – what grade?
- j: is the building in a Conservation Area?
- k: address/telephone, of Conservation Officer

4. REPAIR WORKS OR NEW WORKS SINCE LAST INSPECTION

- a: date of last inspection
- b: who undertook last inspection?
- c: what works of repair have been recorded in the log book
- d: have all repairs required by previous reports been completed – if not what work is still outstanding

e: have there been any alterations (internal or external) since the last inspection?

5. GENERAL CONDITION OF THE BUILDING(S)

Give a summary of the general condition of the building, to include comments on:

- a: the general soundness and suitability
- b: any deterioration (in relation to age)
- c: the adequacy of maintenance and repair
- d: a list of the main defects

6. DETAILED CONDITION OF THE SEVERAL PARTS OF THE BUILDING

Separate detailed reports of the various buildings may be preferable

6.1 General structure, internal and external

- a: do the main walls etc. show signs of movement or structural failure?
- b: are there any cracks, fractures, weakening or possible instability
- c: are there any indications of settlement or foundation problems?
- d: are there any areas of dampness? Is there a damp-proof course? Is the external ground level at least 150mm below damp-proof course level?
- e: are there any external signs of defects in structural timber?
- f: is there any damage due to vandalism, theft, fire, etc?

6.2 External fabric, external wall surfaces

- a: are air bricks clear and is there adequate ventilation for hollow floors?
- b: what are the external walling materials and what is the general surface conditions?
- c: is there any frost damage?
- d: are there cracks or other damage to sills, lintels and other features?
- e: is any re-pointing or other remedial work necessary to external surfaces?
- f: is there any harmful vegetation which should be removed?
- g: what is the condition of basement walls (if any)?

6.3 Roof coverings

- a: what is the material construction and general condition of any pitched roof? are there any slipped, cracked or missing tiles/slates? what is the condition of the ridge? are there any ridge ventilators, or other features, and do they need attention?
- b: what is the material, construction and general condition of any flat roof? are there any cracks, splits, bulges in flat roofing surfaces?
- c: are all flashings sound and suitable? is any making-good necessary?
- d: what is the condition of parapets, copings and other roof features?

6.4 Rainwater disposal system

- a: are all gutters clear of silt, debris and vegetation?
- b: what is the condition of internal valley gutter and parapet gutters and are there any indications of leaks?
- c: what is the condition of any external guttering and are there any indications of leaks?
- d: what is the condition of any hopper heads and rainwater downpipes? are there any splits, cracks, broken joints?
- e: do the gutters and downpipes satisfactorily carry water away? are they of adequate size and to a satisfactory fall? are there any signs of overflowing?

f: do rainwater pipes properly discharge into gullies and underground drainage pipes? is there access for clearing out?

g: is water properly carried away from the building or is it allowed to saturate the base of the walls?

h: are paved areas properly drained away from the building?

i: is surface water drained to soak away or to a surface water sewer? is the system in good order?

6.5 External doors and windows

a: are there any porches, canopies etc. and what is their condition?

b: what is the condition of any external door, door frames, surround, etc?

c: what is the condition of any window surround, frame, sill, window guard, etc?

6.6 External metalwork, woodwork and paintwork

a: what metalwork items are there, and what is their condition? Is any treatment necessary for rust or corrosion?

b: what woodwork is there and what is its condition? are there any signs of rot or other defects? What remedial work is necessary?

c: what items have a painted finish and what is their condition?

6.7 Internal fabric, roof structures

a: which areas of the roof space are accessible and which are not?

b: in any loft which can be inspected, what is the general construction and condition of the main roof trusses, beams and purlins, rafters and joists? Are there any bows, sags, open joints or other indication of structural defect in the roof timber?

c: is the ceiling sound and adequately supported?

d: are there any signs of rot, or attack by insects?

e: are there any signs of water penetration into the roof?

f: what is the condition of any pipes, cables, conduits, ducts, etc. in the roof space?

g: is the roof insulated? If so what is the thickness of the insulation?

h: is there adequate ventilation of the roof void or void between a suspended ceiling and main ceiling?

6.8 Internal partitions, ceiling, walls and doors

a: what is the condition of internal structural and non-structural walls, partitions, screens panelling, etc?

b: is there any timber decay, cracking or dampness and how do these relate to external observations?

c: what is the condition of ceiling finishes, covering, friezes?

d: what is the condition of internal doors and is any remedial work necessary?

e: is all ironmongery working satisfactorily?

6.9 Internal decorations

a: what is the general condition of the paintwork or other finishes on walls, ceiling and woodwork?

6.10 Glazing and ventilation

a: are there any special windows and what is their condition?

b: is there any double glazing? Are there any known draught problems?

c: what is the general glazing and what is its condition?

d: is there sufficient ventilation

e: do opening lights operate satisfactorily?

f: are there any broken or cracked panes to be repaired?

6.11 Floors and balconies

- a: what is the general construction/finish of solid floors, and are there any signs of structural defects?
- b: what is the general construction/finish of hollow or suspended floors and are these showing any signs of structural defect?
- c: is there any access to voids below hollow floors? If so, was the void inspected?
- d: are there any signs of rot or insect attack in timber floors? If so, was the void inspected?
- e: what is the condition of floor coverings/surface finishes?
- f: what is the condition of ducts/gratings, etc?
- g: what is the condition of any staging, platform, dais, etc?
- h: what is the condition of any balcony floor and balustrade?
- i: what is the condition of any stairs or steps?

6.12 Fixtures and fittings

- a: what is the condition of the various fittings-benches, seats, tables, clocks and other loose furnishings?
- b: what is the physical condition of musical instruments piano, etc?

6.13 Services-heating system

- a: what type of heating is installed?
- b: what type of boiler (if any) is installed? What fuel is used? How old is the boiler?
- c: what is the general condition of the boiler, pumps and other boiler house equipment? Type of control system? Is it satisfactorily?
- d: is there a maintenance agreement in operation? What does it cover?
- e: are there any possible hazards in the system?
- f: is there a cold water storage tank or other equipment at high level? Are tanks and pipes insulated?
- g: if the premises are supplied with gas – and are rented or warden occupied – then an annual inspection and certification by a registered “Corgi” installer is a legal requirement.

6.14 Electrical Installation

Has a recent test of the electrical installation and equipment been carried out by the Electricity Board or NICEIC approved contractor? If not, then such a test should be undertaken which will list any defects – these defects will have to be put right before a certificate can be obtained to satisfy the 16th Edition with amendments of the Electrical Engineers’ Regulations for the use of electrical equipment in buildings.

6.15 Sanitary Facilities

- a: what toilet provisions are there in the building for men, women, children and the disabled? Comment on adequacy, condition and hygiene aspects.
- b: are the toilets adequately lit, ventilated and heated or protected against frost?
- c: are there adequate kitchen facilities? What is their condition?
- d: what is the condition of the cold water supply and is the main stopcock accessible?
- e: is there a hot water system or other provision for hot water and what is its condition?
- f: are all sanitary fittings properly plumbed in? are there any broken pipes, leaking joints, dripping taps or overflows?
- g: are all sanitary facilities properly connected to a foul drainage system? Is the outfall to a foul sewer, septic tank or cesspool? Are manholes clear and are covers in good condition? Comment on the adequacy and condition of the foul drainage installation.

6.16 Fire Regulations

a: is there an alarm or smoke detector system and is it in proper working order? The system should be tested regularly.

b: Fire Regulations are a subject matter which has substantially changed in recent times. Advice on current provisions can be obtained from the enforcing authority for fire safety, i.e. from the Local Fire Authority, the Environmental Health Department, The Building Control Department, or in cases where the Fire Precautions (Special Premises) Regulations apply the Health and Safety Executive.

c: The Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals Regulations 1996) bring into force the EC Safety Signs Directive (92/58/EEC).

The purpose of the directive is to encourage the standardisation of safety signs. Included in the regulations are fire safety signs that:

- i) provide information on escape routes and emergency exits
- ii) provide information on the identification and location of fire fighting equipment

Further advice on this can be obtained from the aforementioned authorities.

6.17 Security

a: can the building be adequately secured, without impairing the possibility of emergency exit all times?

b: have there been problems from vandalism and/or theft and what action might usefully be taken?

c: are any parts of the building specially protected and are there other protections that might be considered?

6.18 Exterior external areas

a: are there any outbuildings and what is their condition?

b: what is the condition of boundary walls, fences and gates? Are boundaries properly defined and maintained?

c: 'Adverse easements' Have you knowledge of any cables, pipelines, drains – serving other properties running over or under the property. If no, a plan should be made.

d: are there any rights of way over the property serving other land owners?

e: are there any windows from other properties adjacent to the boundaries?

f: what is the condition of grassed or planted areas?

g: are any tree/shrubs overgrown or hazardous to buildings?

h: are paths, paving and steps in good condition, any hazards?

i: what is the notice board adequate and in good condition?