



Temple Moyle, Lattonfasky, Co. Monaghan
Conservation Plan

DATE: 31st January 2022

Temple Moyle, Lattonfasky, Co. Monaghan Conservation Plan

Address: Lattonfasky, Lough Egish, Tullnahinera , Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan.

Client: Lough Egish Community Development CLG

Archaeologist: Maeve McCormick, Bart Korfanty

Monuments: MO024-034001 Church & MO024-034002 Graveyard

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An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Lough Egish Community Development C.L.G.



Archer
Heritage Planning

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An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
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SUMMARY

This Conservation Plan for late medieval church (MO024-034001) and its associated graveyard (MO024-034002) been undertaken by Archer Heritage in September and October 2021 on behalf of Lough Egish Community Development CLG in advance of and with the aim to inform and guide maintenance and landscaping works.

Temple Moyle is a rectangular single cell chapel comprising four walls in various states of decay. It is of late medieval gothic construction dating to the C15th Century. Temple Moyle was constructed and maintained by the Franciscan friars from its inception sometime after the arrival of the Franciscans to Monaghan in 1462 until the final friar died in the 1840's. Historic accounts tell how the Franciscan friars were hidden by the locals in a nearby house during the Penal times and they illegally conducted mass in the ruined chapel and at mass rocks throughout the parish. They also provided illegal education in hedge schools and within the chapel ruins at this time too. Local tradition tells how Cromwell's troops blew the bell from the chapel into the lake with cannon fire and then set fire to the thatched roof of the chapel thus giving the name *Teampell Maol* (bald chapel) to the ruin.

The graveyard is in an overgrown state with brambles and shrubs encroaching on the chapel. Landscaping works conducted around the chapel as part of the Conservation Plan exposed the stone walls but will need to be maintained in order to protect the structure from further damage by penetrating plants and deep roots. The graveyard itself is inaccessible in areas and while this may be inconvenient it is not doing any harm and in fact is providing a haven for wildlife. Due to the lack of weed killers and artificial fertilisers used it is highly likely there are rare and endangered plant and fungi species within the confines of the graveyard.

Temple Moyle church and graveyard are deemed to have important local and regional significance and moderate national significance when the ruin is considered in conjunction with its gothic architecture and links to local and national history.

The work required to stabilise the chapel would be extensive and must be guided by architectural and conservation specialists in consultation with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Stabilisation works are necessary as both the western and eastern gable walls have collapsed significantly to the point that they are severely weakened. In the short term it is advised to erect public safety notices and temporary fencing to protect the public in case of wall collapse.

NOTE: All conclusions and recommendations expressed in this report are subject to the approval of The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and the relevant local authorities. As the statutory body responsible for the protection of Ireland's archaeological and cultural heritage resource, the DHLGH may issue alternative or additional recommendations.

1. INTRODUCTION

This Conservation Plan for the late medieval church Temple Moyle (MO024-034001) and its associated graveyard (MO024-034002) been undertaken by Archer Heritage on behalf of Lough Egish Community Development CLG in order to inform and guide future maintenance and landscaping works. The site is located on the Lough Egish c.7km SW of Castleblaney town, Co. Monaghan (Figure 1). This Conservation Plan presents detailed description and survey of the subject site, its history and context within the surrounding landscape and provides a roadmap for future interventions at the site.

1.1 Project Brief

The project brief and its objectives are to undertake and publish a Conservation Plan that will:

1. Outline the significance of the ancient monuments and its graveyard located at Lattonfasky Lough Egish, Tullnahinera, Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan.
2. Present a brief history and description of the surviving features of medieval Lough Egish.
3. Produce an artist rendering depicting how the lake shore site area looked in the medieval times.
4. Identify the issues that affect the core values of the various components of the site and of the site entirety.
5. Draft policies for effective management of the medieval components of Lough Egish into the future while maintaining and highlighting the integral part of these elements play in the social and cultural significance of the modern local landscape.
6. To specify repairs such that the Lough Egish Community Development CLG can prepare tender documents to achieve the repairs as set out within the Conservation Plan and its appendices.
7. Deliver a 5-day practical programme of initial advice that's operable within the community networks to enable communities to take responsibility and to participate in the development and conservation of their asset heritage.

1.2 Project team

Maeve McCormick undertook historical research and liaised with relevant bodies and local historians, libraries and museums and compiled the report. She also oversaw the landscaping project and undertook the walkover survey. Maeve has a BA in Archaeology (NUIG 2007) and MSc in Human Osteoarchaeology from Edinburgh University (2009) and is eligible to hold an excavation licence in Ireland since 2019. She has over 10 years professional experience

Bart Korfanty (MA 2006) has 20 years' experience in commercial archaeological and heritage projects. He is a specialist in Digital Survey and undertook the Architectural Survey, Graveyard survey, 3D imaging and interpretation of the LIDAR Data.

Ciaran McGuinness (MBA) was the Project manager. Ciaran has 25 years' experience in delivering complex archaeological projects and has consulted with Lough Egish Community Development CLG. Aidan O'Connell (BA, MIAI; Senior Archaeologist) provided oversight and guidance throughout the project.



Figure 1: Site Location

1.3 Consultation

The first consultation with Archer Heritage and Lough Egish Community Development CLG took place on the site of Temple Moyle chapel and graveyard on Saturday 14th August 2021. It comprised a tour of the site and discussion regarding the desired outcome of the Conservation Plan.

Contact was made with National Monuments on the 20th of August to provide the required notice for of the landscaping works surrounding the Chapel in accordance with Section 12(3) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. A reply received on 3rd September 2021 from Patrick O Donovan granted permission to conduct the works.

Contact was made with Shirley Clerkin, Monaghan Heritage Officer on 20th of August with notification of the intention to conduct the landscaping works. This was followed up by a phone call on the on 21st of September and a meeting Tuesday 28th of September at the site to inspect the completed landscaping works and discuss the progress of the Conservation Plan.

Professional Landscaper Aidan Flanagan and his team conducted landscaping works within and immediately surrounding the chapel Saturday the 18th of Sept 2021. These works were conducted under continuous archaeological supervision by Maeve McCormick of Archer Heritage.

1.4 Methodology

The Conservation Plan included a desk-based study where relevant databases and sources were consulted to determine the archaeological potential of the general area. These sources included:

- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)/ Sites and Monuments Record.
- Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland.
- Aerial photography.
- Historical maps.
- Documentary research.
- Relevant on-line databases (e.g. Excavation Bulletin; NRA Archaeological Database).
- Speaking to locals for local folklore
- Reference section of Monaghan County Library

The on-site works comprised

- A walkover survey of the chapel and graveyard conducted on 14th August 2021
- Detailed photographic survey as part of the architectural survey of the chapel conducted on the 24th & 28th September 2021
- Drone survey of the chapel, graveyard and surrounding landscape undertaken on the 28th September 2021

- Photogrammetry and 3D modelling of chapel completed on the 1st October 2021
- Interpretation of DSM survey completed on the 1st October 2021
- Artist's interpretation and illustration of the chapel, graveyard and peninsula.

2. Site description

2.1 Monument description

Temple Moyle Church (MO024-034001) and its associated graveyard (MO024-034002) is located in the townland of Lattonfasky (Aghnamullen Parish, Cremorne Barony, Dioceses of Clogher, County Monaghan, ITM 678646, 814020) on a peninsula situated on the north-eastern shore of Lough Egish c.7km SW of Castleblaney town (Figure 1).

The church (MO024-034001) is described in the Record of Monuments and Places as “a plain rectangular structure (ext. dims 20.10m E-W; 8.35m N-S), which survives almost complete, apart from the removal of all dressed stone and some gaps in the north and south walls. It had a tall east window, which was probably a single lancet, and there was another tall window towards the east end of the south wall. The doorway towards the west end of the south wall does not survive but the voids for two corbels to support a gallery at the W end are evident as is a destroyed window placed high in the W gable. A large beam-hole in the inner face of the S wall 6.60m from the southeast angle is the location of a rood-screen that would divide the church in the ratio of 2:1, but the inner face of the wall on the N side is destroyed” (<https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/>)

Detailed 3D images of the extant structure are provided below in Plates 1-4.



Plate 1 (L): 3D image of east gable
Plate 2 (R): 3D image of west gable



Plate 3: 3D image of north wall



Plate 4: 3D image of south wall

The chapel appears to date to the late medieval (Anglo-Norman; AD 1200-1600) period probably from the 13th to 15th Century. There is no evidence for early medieval (AD 400-1200) features or construction methods. However, it cannot be discounted that the late medieval chapel was built in the footprint of an

earlier church. It is believed to have been constructed as a 'chapel of ease' for the Franciscan friary in Monaghan. A 'chapel of ease' is one which is built within walking distance of the parishioners who live too far from the main church. If this is the case, this would place the date of construction after AD 1462, when Franciscans settled in Monaghan.

Temple Moyle is a late medieval rectangular single cell chapel. It is aligned ENE/WSW and measures c.18m long x c.6.40m wide. The walls varied in thickness between 0.80m -1.20m, with the gable walls on average measuring deeper than the side walls. The walls are in varying stages of disrepair (see below, Section 4.2). The chapel is currently unroofed and believed to have been in this state since the 17th Century. Two opposing shallow horizontal ledges located towards the internal apex of each gable would have held the rafters which supported the roof (Plate 1-4).

A large opening in the eastern gable marks the location of a window. A substantial portion of masonry has fallen away from the northern side. However a southern embrasure is evident. Above this a series of vertically laid stones may indicate the position of the original arch (Plate 1 & Plate 22). There are two other windows within the structure. One is located on the southern wall, towards the eastern corner. It also displays internally splayed and faced window edges. The window edges curve as it rises so that both sides would have met in a pointed arch characteristic of the Gothic style (Plate 26 & Plate 29). Gothic architecture (or pointed architecture) is an architectural style that was particularly popular in Europe from the late 12th century to the 16th century.

The third window is located in the centre of the western gable wall. It is c.2.60m above ground and measures max c.1m high x c.0.50m wide. The window is similar to the others in that it has internally splayed and faced edges, however it has a simple flat lintel unlike the arches of the other two windows. It is likely all these windows would have originally been partially faced with dressed stones, as is common in buildings of this era.

The doorway would once have been located in the southern wall towards the western corner. There are no longer any remains of the doorway as the entire space has collapsed (Plate 27).

The western gable may have contained a bellcote (or bell-cot). A bellcote is a small framework or shelter for one or more bells. It is common on churches that have no towers. Temple Moyle does not currently have a bellcote or the remains of one, however tradition tells of Cromwell destroying the bell implying it once existed. The apex of the western gable wall is slightly wider than that of the eastern gable wall, suggesting it could once have supported a narrow bellcote for a single bell. (For further details see section 4.2.3, Plate 22 & Plate 36).

The interior of single cell chapels are divided into the nave (for the congregation) and the chancel (for the clergy and choir) often to a ratio of 2:1. The chancel is always located on the eastern side of a church and contains the altar. It is often separated from the nave by a step, rail or screen. In Temple Moyle a beam-hole can be seen in the interior face of the southern wall (Plate 29). It is located in such a place as to allow

the 2:1 ratio separation and so it is likely to be the beam hole which supported the rood screen (dividing screen).

A recess is built into the lower southern corner of the interior eastern gable wall. As this is in the eastern wall and therefore within the chancel it is likely this would have been used as an ambry. An ambry is a small press located near the altar in the chancel which normally has a door or curtain hiding its contents. These recesses would have contained the Eucharist or Holy oils.

The nave of the church comprises the remaining section outside of the chancel. This is the area the congregation would gather for worship. In some cases the nave also contains an elevated wooden area called a gallery. Evidence of a gallery platform can be found in Temple Moyle in the form of beam-holes and sockets for removed corbels (stones which support beams) on the interior face of both the south and western walls. The northern wall may have had corresponding sockets but the inner wall facing has collapsed in the relevant areas.

There are three stones within the church walls which are engraved or inscribed. The first is located on the exterior face of the western gable. It is situated at the NW corner immediately above an area of collapsed masonry. It is clearly engraved with letters but they are indecipherable, primarily due to the lichen obscuring them (Plate 5). The second engraved stone is located on the same wall, immediately below the window. It comprised two crosses, one above the other. These are more crudely drawn than the first stone (Plate 6). The final engraved stone is located on the interior face of the north wall, near the chancel. It is situated high on the wall and comprises a crudely drawn star or asterisk (Plate 7).



Plate 5: Indecipherable engraving on a stone in the exterior western gable wall face



Plate 6 (L): Engraving on a stone in the exterior western gable wall face
Plate 7 (R): Star or Asterisk engraved on a stone in the interior north wall face.

Temple Moyle is very similar in construction to the late medieval church at Glynn, Co. Antrim which was built in 1306AD. The long rectangular ruin is divided into two main elements, the nave and chancel with the chancel a later (c.1500AD) addition to the original single cell church. The nave/ original single cell church is slightly smaller than Temple Moyle measuring 13.5m x 5.35m (Gault 2017, 178). The nave at Glynn is lit by four small splayed windows. Several of the dressed stones of the window surround survive carved from sandstone. The original eastern gable wall was broken through during the addition of the chancel c.1500AD, removing the eastern window and replacing it with a chancel arch. (*Ibid*,182). The eastern gable is very similar to the eastern gable at Temple Moyle. A comparable horizontal ledge is present in order to support the roof rafters. An ambry of similar size and shape is located in the lower southern corner of the interior gable wall. The windows are constructed in a similar gothic style with splayed and faced sides and vertical stones forming the arch. The main difference is that Glynn chapel still partially retains the dressed sandstone surrounds on the window edges (compare Plate 8 with Plate 22). The nave at Glynn is a typical example of the plain rectangular medieval parish church encountered in rural Ireland which, due to its lack of ornament is difficult to specifically date. The construction of the chancel can be assigned with reasonable confidence to the period consistent with late Irish gothic style displayed by architectural evidence. There was a tendency for late gothic architecture in Ireland and Scotland to include combinations of round and pointed arches (*ibid*, 186). The chancel windows at Glynn and Temple Moyle appear to be rounded while the southern window in Temple Moyle was pointed. It is suggested that the chancel extension at Glynn falls within a phase of increased building activity from the 1460s to early 16th century characterised by the foundation (after 1460) of new Franciscan friaries in 3 locations (including Monaghan) (*ibid*, 186).The dating evidence supplied for Glynn chapel can also be applied to Temple Moyle as the architecture is very similar. Local tradition states the Franciscan friars constructed the chapel. The 15th century date of the gothic architecture corresponds with the arrival of the Franciscans to Monaghan in 1462.

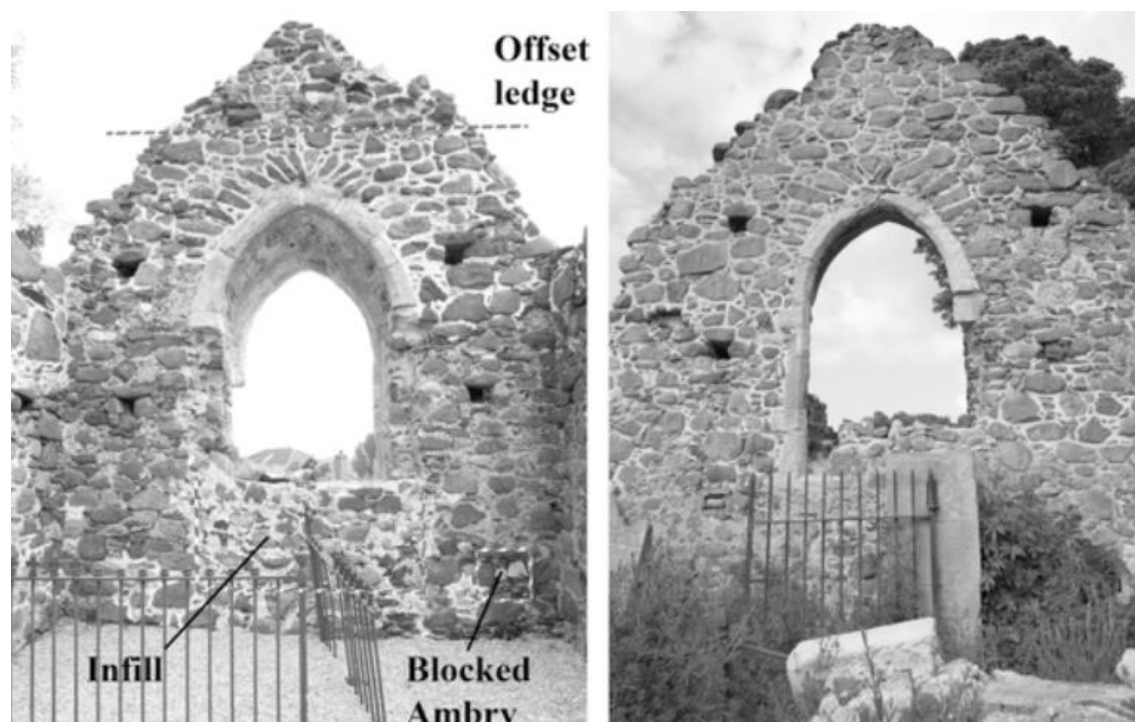


Plate 8: Glynn church, east gable/chancel wall built c.1500 (interior (L), exterior (R)). Note the horizontal /offset ledge, ambry and splayed and faced window edges with vertical stones forming an arch above. Dressed stones are still in place unlike at Temple Moyle.

The graveyard (MO024-034002) is described in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) as having the church “in the northern part of an oval graveyard (max. dims c. 95m NW-SE; c. 50m NE-SW) defined by an earthen bank or scarps with a hedge and by an ENE-WSW stone wall (L c. 35m) at the north that probably truncated the graveyard slightly. The few headstones date from about 1800 but there are also grave-markers.” (<https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/>). The graveyard is in an overgrown state with a few paths worn around the ruin of the chapel and through the graves. For further details see section 4.3.

2.2 Topography and landscape setting

The subject area lies within a landscape of rolling drumlins with open pastoral fields currently in use, in the main, for cattle or sheep grazing. The fields are enclosed by native hedgerow. The church and graveyard is situated on a low rise between hills at the southeast angle of a bay (dims c. 200m N-S; c. 200m E-W) that is at the northeast end of Lough Egish. A laneway runs along the eastern side of the graveyard providing access from the nearby local road (L4121) to Lough Egish and the chapel.

2.3 Ownership of the site and its access ways

Temple Moyle Church (MO024-034001) and its associated graveyard (MO024-034002) are owned by the Catholic Church. They are not currently in state ownership or maintained by Monaghan County Council. The laneway which provides access to the chapel is a public road.

2.4 Legal status of site

Temple Moyle Church (MO024-034001) and its associated graveyard (MO024-034002) are Recorded Monuments. The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a statutory inventory of archaeological sites protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 (Section 12, 1994 Act), compiled and maintained by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI). The inventory concentrates on pre-1700 AD sites and is based on a previous inventory known as the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) which does not have legal protection or status.

National Monuments legislation gives the Minister for Arts a specific role in the protection of archaeological monuments, through the agency of the National Monuments Section of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG). The National Monuments Act (1930) and its subsequent amendments (1950, 1987 & 2004) are an attempt to protect monuments against all manner of threat and legislate for different aspects from artefacts and metal detecting, to underwater archaeology and road schemes.

In the broadest terms archaeological monuments are safeguarded by the

- Prohibition and regulation of excavation (including for archaeological purposes) at archaeological monuments without Ministerial consent;
- Mandatory notification of 2 months intent to carry out works at or adjacent to archaeological monuments;
- Preservation Orders or Temporary Preservation Orders can be made whenever necessary to secure the protection of monuments of archaeological interest.

Under Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations, Local Authorities are obliged to send notice of planning applications which may impact on archaeological monuments to DAHG. In this way, requirements for archaeological mitigation can be included with planning conditions on the grant of planning permission for a proposed development. Furthermore, under National Monuments legislation (Section 12; 1994 Act), local authorities are required to give two months' notice of any proposed work which may impact on archaeological monuments.

An important aspect of the legislation is that archaeological monuments in the ownership or care of a local authority are classified as National Monuments, and as such require Ministerial Consent for any works to be carried out on or in their proximity. Section 14 (1) of the 1930 Act, as amended by Section 5 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004. This provides that:

"In respect of a national monument of which the Minister or a local authority are the owners or the guardians or in respect of which a preservation order is in force, it shall not be lawful for any person to do any of the following things in relation to such national monument:

- a. to demolish or remove it wholly or in part or to disfigure, deface, alter, or in any manner injure or interfere with it, or

- b. to excavate, dig, plough or otherwise disturb the ground within, around, or in proximity to it, or
- c. to renovate or restore it, or
- d. to sell it or any part of it for exportation or to export it or any part of it, without the consent referred to in subsection (2) of this section or otherwise than in accordance with such consent"

The local authority, as owner/guardian of an archaeological monument also has a duty to maintain its monuments. Section 12 (1) of the 1930 Act states:

‘Where the Commissioners or a local authority are the owners or the guardians of a national monument, the Commissioners or such local authority (as the case may be) shall maintain such monument and shall, in the case of any monument of which they are guardians, have for themselves, their workmen, agents and licensees free access to such monument for the purpose of inspecting it and bringing such materials and doing such acts and things as they may consider necessary or expedient for the maintenance thereof.’

Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025

The Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 (Chapter 6 Heritage, Conservation & Landscape) establishes Monaghan County Council’s policies and proposals for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the heritage of Monaghan. It aims to achieve the balance between protecting, conserving and presenting the county’s rich cultural and natural heritage while promoting sustainable economic development and the enrichment of the environment. Through policies and objectives contained in this Development Plan, they seek to ensure the effective protection, conservation and enhancement of archaeological sites, monuments and their settings. A selection of Strategic Policies, Policies and Objectives is outlined below.

All known recorded monuments (and any new archaeological discoveries) are protected under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994. The Record of Monuments and Places is an inventory of all known archaeological monuments and sites in the County and is available for inspection in the Planning Offices and the County Library. There are approximately 1383 known Recorded Monuments in County Monaghan at present. In addition, there are 7 National Monuments in state control. The main threat to archaeological sites in recent years has been the growth in large scale developments such as road building, quarrying, industrial development and afforestation.

Protected Monuments & Places Policy

- **PMP 1** To protect the Record of Monuments and Places listed in Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 (and any subsequent additions by the National Monuments Service) to ensure that the setting of the recorded monument or site is not materially injured and to co-operate with all recommendations of Statutory bodies in the achievement of this objective.

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- **PMP 2** To ensure that any development adjacent to an archaeological monument or site shall not be detrimental to the character of the archaeological sites or its setting and shall be sited in a manner which minimises the impact on the monument and its setting. Development which is likely to detract from the setting of such a monument or site shall be resisted.
 - **PMP 3** To protect archaeological sites and monuments which are listed in the Record of Monument and Places and to require their preservation in situ (or at a minimum preservation by record) through the planning process.
 - **PMP 4** When considering new development in the vicinity of archaeological monuments/sites the planning authority may require one or more of the following to ensure the preservation and enhancement of the recorded monument;
 - a. The provision of an appropriate buffer between the proposed development and the archaeological monument/ site.
 - b. The submission of a Visual Impact Assessment to assess the potential impact on the setting of the recorded monument.
 - c. The carrying out of an onsite archaeological investigation prior to a permission being granted.
 - d. Revisions to the proposed development to reflect any advice and/or recommendations made by the Department of the Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht (and any other relevant statutory consultee).
 - **PMP 5** To identify where appropriate Archaeological sites in the Plan area to which public access could be provided or improved in consultation with landowners.
 - **PMP 6** To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of archaeological sites and monuments and their settings, archaeological objects and underwater archaeological sites that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, in the ownership/guardianship of the State, or that are subject of Preservation Orders or have been registered in the Register of Historic Monuments. Contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and preservation of archaeological sites, which have been identified subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places. To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and preservation of underwater archaeological sites in riverine or lacustrine locations.
 - **PMP 7** To consult with the National Monuments Service in relation to proposed developments adjoining archaeological sites.

The Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 (Chapter 6 Heritage, Conservation & Landscape) sets out to contribute towards the protection of designated ecological sites including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); Salmonid Waters; Shellfish Areas; Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; Flora Protection Order sites; Wildlife Sites (including Nature Reserves); Certain

entries to the Water Framework Directive Register of Protected Areas; Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs); and Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979). Furthermore, it sets out to contribute towards compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including the following and any updated/superseding documents:

- EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended)¹, the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)², the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)³, the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended by 2014/52/EC), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC).
- National legislation, including the Wildlife Act 1976, the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and associated Regulations, Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011) and the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008.
- National policy guidelines (including any clarifying Circulars or superseding versions of same), including the Landscape and Landscape Assessment Draft Guidelines 2000, the Environmental Impact Assessment Sub-Threshold Development Guidelines 2003, Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines 2004 and the Appropriate Assessment Guidance 2010.
- Catchment and water resource management Plans, including the relevant River Basin Management Plan and Flood Risk Management Plan.
- Biodiversity Plans and guidelines, including the 3rd National Biodiversity Plan 2017-2023.
- National Pollinator Plan.
- Freshwater Pearl Mussel Regulations (S.I. 296 of 2009) (including any associated designated areas or management plans).
- Ireland's Environment 2016 - An Assessment (EPA, 2016, including any superseding versions of same), and to make provision where appropriate to address the report's goals and challenges.

Heritage Conservation and Landscape Policies

- **HLP 1:** To implement in partnership with all relevant stakeholders the objectives and actions detailed within the County Monaghan Heritage Plan 2017-2022 and any subsequent versions.
- **HLP 2:** To adopt and implement in partnership with all relevant stakeholders the objectives and actions detailed in the Biodiversity Action Plan and any relevant action plan.
- **HLP 3:** To contribute as appropriate towards the protection of designated sites in compliance with relevant EU Directives and applicable National Legislation.
- **HLP 4:** No projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction,

operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects⁶).

- **HLP 5:** To recognise that nature conservation is not just confined to designated sites and acknowledge the need to protect non-designated habitats and landscapes and to conserve their biological diversity and provide ecosystem services.
- **HLP 6:** To support the implementation of any relevant recommendations contained in the National Biodiversity Plan, the National Pollination Plan and the National Peatlands Strategy.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 *Brief archaeological & historical background*

Lough Egish and Temple Moyle are located within the Civil Parish of Aughnamullen East in mid-county Monaghan. It is a rural parish surrounding Lough Egish Lake and lying between the towns of Castleblayney and Ballybay, with Carrickmacross to the south and Shercock to the west. The parish is within the eastern part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Clogher. The Diocese of Clogher encompasses all of County Monaghan, most of County Fermanagh and portions of Counties Tyrone, Donegal, Louth and Cavan. Until the early 1800s, together with Latton and Bawn, Aughnamullen East formed part of the ancient parish of Aughnamullen. In fact, prior to 1530, it formed part of much wider parish called Cremorne, a territory which included the parishes of Tullycorbet, Clontibret and parts of modern-day Muckno.

The Franciscan Friars are members of a Roman Catholic religious order founded in the early 13th century by St. Francis of Assisi. In 1207 St. Francis felt the call to a life of preaching, penance, and total poverty. In 1209 he and 11 of his followers journeyed to Rome, where Francis received approval of his rule from Pope Innocent III. Under this rule, Franciscan friars could own no possessions of any kind, either individually or communally (i.e., as the property of the order as a whole). The friars wandered and preached among the people, helping the poor and the sick. They supported themselves by working and by begging for food, but they were forbidden to accept money either as payment for work or as donations. The Franciscans worked at first in Umbria and then in the rest of Italy and abroad. The popularity of the order grew quickly so that within 10 years they numbered 5,000. As the order grew, it became clear that a revised rule was necessary. The rapid expansion of membership had created a need for settled monastic houses. Despite going against the vow of poverty the rule was approved by Pope Honorius III. St. Bonaventure, minister general (1257–74), provided a moderate interpretation of the rule and Franciscan Friaries were constructed across Europe as centres of education and study. (www.franciscans.ie).

The first documentary evidence of the presence of the Franciscans in Ireland is a record of a grant of twenty marks made to them by King Henry III on 13th of January 1233 to repair their houses and church in Dublin. By the middle of the 13th Century they had established themselves along the east coast of the country in centres of predominantly Norman influence. Gradually the Franciscans Friars spread west and settled amongst the native Irish (Giblin 1970, 149).

It is likely that Franciscans attached to friaries in Dundalk, Drogheda, Downpatrick and Armagh, which were all established in the 13th Century were the first to find their way to the diocese of Clogher in Monaghan. In October 1453 Pope Nicholas V granted permission to Father William O Reilly, the Irish Provincial, to found three new friaries. Between 1453 and 1471 friaries were established at Stradbally, Co Laois, Galbally, Co. Limerick and Monaghan town, Co. Monaghan. The first Franciscan friary in County Monaghan was recorded to be in Monaghan town, founded in 1462, no trace of this friary remains (www.franciscans.ie).

Franciscan friary of Monaghan was founded in 1462 when Feilim the son of Brian, son of Ardghal Mac Mahon was Lord of the region. The MacMahons protected the friars from the religious oppression. Although the friary in Monaghan had suffered an attack in 1540, it was not evacuated until it was sacked by an English army in 1589. The friars returned around 1635 and, apart from the Cromwellian period, continued to reside in the town for most of that century (www.franciscans.ie). There is now nothing left of the building which according to Cannon McKenna stood “about 300 yards to the southwest of the Diamond from the point opposite Glaslough Street where the castle formerly stood” (Giblin 1970, 151). Lord Blaney had the stones taken from the friary to build his castle c. 200 yards away from it.

The Plantation of Ulster was the organised colonisation (plantation) of Ulster with British Protestants during the reign of King James I (1603-25). Most of the settlers (or planters) came from southern Scotland and northern England; their culture differed from that of the native Irish. Small privately-funded plantations by wealthy landowners began in 1606, while the official plantation began in 1609. Most of the colonised land had been confiscated from the native Gaelic chiefs, several of whom had fled Ireland for mainland Europe in 1607 following the Nine Years' War against English rule. The official plantation comprised an estimated half a million acres (2,000 km²) of arable land in counties Armagh, Cavan, Fermanagh, Tyrone, Tyrconnell and Londonderry. Land in counties Antrim, Down and Monaghan was privately colonised with the king's support (www.britannica.com).

Under The Plantation of Ulster the Catholics of Monaghan, including the Diocese of Clogher were deprived of their churches and church lands, their clergy and religion were outlawed and the Catholic Church went into hiding. For the next two centuries and more, (with the exception of brief periods of in of intermittent toleration) the Catholic Church in County Monaghan remained more or less an underground movement (Ó Gallachair 1957, 96). Mass had now to be celebrated in strange places, in the shelter of private homes and huts, in sheds and stables, and in better weather, in woods and caves, or in the open air (*ibid*, 98).

The Penal Laws (1695-1793) were a series of laws imposed by the British Government in an attempt to force Irish Catholics and Protestant dissenters to accept the established Church of Ireland. These laws notably included the Education Act 1695 (prohibiting or hindering the education of Catholics), the Banishment Act 1697 (banishing all clergy of the Catholic Church from Ireland), the Registration Act 1704 (requiring the registration of all Catholic clergy), the Popery Acts 1704 and 1709 (preventing further growth of Catholicism), and the Disenfranchising Act 1728 (prohibiting all Catholics from voting in parliamentary

elections). The majority of the penal laws were removed with Catholic Emancipation in the period 1778–1793 with the last of them of any significance being removed in 1829. (www.britannica.com)

Despite the oppression and associated violence, in the entire 226 years from James I to Catholic Emancipation in 1829, we have documentary proof of the killings of only two Clogher clergy; Fr. Edmund Mulligan, slain in Killeevan in 1643, and Bishop Heber MacMahon beheaded at Enniskillen, 1650 (*ibid*, 103).

Despite the destruction and oppression of the Catholic Religion the people of Monaghan remained defiant. Whenever persecution waned they would practice in public again. On the 9th of March 1629 the Lord Deputy and his council at Dublin complained to the English Privy council about the ‘boldness of the Papists’ who had “in the churches of county Monaghan erected alters of lime and stone and have presumed to celebrate mass at them. The same document contains an “Order of the Irish Council that Lord Blayney, Governor of Monaghan, shall pull down the altars and take steps to bring the offenders before the Council.” (*Ibid*, 97). The Irish Privy Council directed Lord Blayney to see that the makeshift alters at Aughnamullen and Magheraclone were removed. At this time the friars did not reside in Monaghan town but lived somewhere in the district. This is proved by the fact that in 1634 a silver chalice presented to them by James Flemming and Brigid Barnewall was made for “the convent of St Francis, Monaghan” (Giblin 1970, 156).

By 1640 a small community of Monaghan Franciscans still existed. Evidence for this comes from a complaint sent by Patrick Hegarty, the Prefect of the Franciscan Mission to Scotland to the Congregation of Propaganda at Rome on the 4th of December 1640. In this letter he complained that he had not a single missionary at his disposal. Four friars who had previously worked with him in Scotland had recently left for home; Edmund McCann to Armagh, Con Ward to Donegal, Patrick Brady to Cavan and Paul O Neill to Monaghan (*ibid*, 157).

In Sept 1671 Oliver Plunket stated in his report to the Internuncio at Brussels that the Monaghan Franciscan community numbered only 7, one of whom, Francis Maguire, was a “good preacher and a learned man”. On the accession of James II to the throne in 1685 Patrick Tyrrell, a Franciscan, was Bishop of Clogher. He re-established a friary at Monaghan around 1689 and resided there for a time himself (*ibid*, 157).

The Franciscans eventually found it impossible to continue in the friaries which had been founded for them at both Monaghan and Lisgoole, Co Fermanagh. As a result, they set up what they intended to be temporary friaries in various parts of the diocese of Clogher with the intention of returning to their original foundations when the persecution ended. As early as 1623 even the friars of Armagh community had a temporary residence in Clogher Diocese. Towards the end of the 18th century as persecution increased, the numbers of Franciscans in the country decreased. Even the “places of refuge” were abandoned with the result that one or two friars were often found living on their own and assisting the diocesan clergy (*ibid*, 180).

Several places in Clogher are mentioned in the 18th and 19th century as connected in some way with small groups of Franciscans or with individual friars- places such as Coas, Ballybay, Drumally, Inniskeen, Inishmacsaint, Aghnamullen, Killee, Ballytrain, Donaghmoynes and interestingly Chapel Moyle and Lough Egish. "Friars Cemetery", "Friars Garden", "Friars well" and such appellations, as recorded in the vicinity of Temple Moyle, usually point to the presence of a friar or friars in a particular spot (*ibid*, 183).

Temple Moyle and Lough Egish in the parish of Aghnamullen East, Diocese of Clogher was one of the places mentioned where the dispersed Franciscans of Monaghan found shelter early in the 17th century. During the period of 1660-1690 Lough Egish was a haven for the clergy. This was due to the presence of the only Irishman in the diocese of Clogher who were in a position to provide any protection and assistance for priests "on the run". The two men named in relation to this protection were Brian mac Colla mac Mahon and his son who was also called Brian (*ibid*, 184). The Bishop of Clogher at the time, Patrick Duffy, was welcomed and protected at Lough Egish, but as a native of the area he could expect to be protected by the locals. It is likely that during his time at Lough Egish he first joined the Franciscans. Duffys successor in the see of Clogher, Patrick Tyrrell, though a Franciscan, was not a native of the diocese; nevertheless he too enjoyed the protection of the MacMahons and found shelter at Lough Egish. It is unclear how long the Franciscans continued to reside there.

A report on the state of Popery in Ireland in 1731 states categorically there were no Franciscans in Monaghan, although they were represented at Chapters of the Order held in Dublin in 1717 and 1729 (McKenna 1922, vol. 1, 13-14). At the time of the Down Survey (1590) the land on the shore of Lough Egish were called the two Tates of Leaton (now Lattonfasky and Lurgangreen) and the owners described as "Church lands and William Fortescue". These lands were not given to Cromwellian soldiers. The principal person recorded as paying the 'Hearth Money' there was Redmond O'Hanlon, probably the prior. Again, during the Williamite confiscations the same lands were found to be the property of Patrick Matthews, an 'Irish Papist', but were covered with a mortgage to William Fortescue. It is probable they were concealing the friary. In a report called 'The Return' of 1743 nearby Donaghmoynes is mentioned twice. First the parish priest is given as "James Clinton of Coas, a friar", second, the priest is Patrick McCabe, both of whose assistants, James O Neill and James Cassidy are described as friars. The parish priest of Aghnamullen is Patrick Brollagh Duffy, whose residence is given as 'near Lough Egish' (Rushe 1921, 48).

It is likely the remaining Franciscans were in hiding and being protected by locals when the survey for the Return was conducted. What is known is that in 1743 Friars James Clinton, James O Neill, James Cassidy and Patrick Duffy spent some time at Lough Egish and in 1775 a parishioner of Monaghan left a legacy to the Friary of Lough Egish (Giblin 1970, 184). It was recorded by Rushe that Lattonfasky townland in the parish of Aghnamullen East near the Donaghmoynes border was the location of the Monaghan Friary for a while in the penal times. (Rushe 1921, 48).

By 1800 the number of Franciscans in Ireland had fallen drastically. The number of priests belonging to the order in the whole country did not exceed ninety. Cannon McKenna states that in 1801 of the 17 curates in the diocese at the time only two were Franciscans. By 1804 there was no known friary in the diocese of Clogher (McKenna 1922, vol. 1, 13-14).

Driven by persecution from their foundations at Monaghan and nearby Lisgoole, Co. Fermanagh the Franciscan friars continued to live in makeshift friaries at various places in the diocese, such as Lough Egish (Giblin 1970, 150). Friar Thomas Martin entered the order on 1792 and was ordained priest in 1800 (*ibid*, 190). It is said that when Thomas Martin first ministered in the Clogher diocese he used to say mass in an old dilapidated chapel in the village of Lattonfasky, this is likely to be Temple Moyle. He died between 1849 -50 and was buried in Aughnamullen Cemetery (www.franciscans.ie). He left everything he possessed to another Franciscan named John Mac Mahon who was living near Castleblaney at the time. It is suggested that Friar Mac Mahon “dwelt in a lean-to hut amidst the ruins of Chapel Moyle, an old church on the shores of Lough Egish where the Franciscans had a place of refuge years before”. It was in these same ruins Thomas Martin used to say mass before his parishioners built a small chapel for him at nearby Ballytrain (Murnane & Murnane 1999, 47). Around 1850 with the death of the last few friars the Franciscans in Clogher Diocese came to an end.

Temple Moyle chapel has remained a ruin since with only occasional or special masses or funerals taking place within its walls. The nearby house where the friars are suspected of living in hiding has been renovated or rebuilt and is currently in use as a family home. The well associated with the house, still called ‘Friars Well’ is now a recorded monument.

3.2 Folklore

Temple Moyle features heavily in Local Folklore. Tommy McEntee, the self-proclaimed ‘oldest living person in the area’ illuminated the history of the site and locality. According to Mr McEntee the chapel was built in the 1300s or 1400s by the Franciscan friars, although Shaun O’ Byrne a native of the area stated that it was founded by the Friars c.1550 (<http://magoo.com/hugh/eoghanach.html>). Mr McEntee says that they used an unusual method of construction in that the mortar comprised of sand and pebbles from the lakebed mixed solely with pigs blood. This mixture was apparently commonly used by locals at the time.

The Franciscans who lived at Temple Moyle were renowned craftsmen and musicians. They had a particular skill with the flute and would meet with people from Laragh, a townland to the south of the lake, to compete in musical competitions. These Friars were also highly educated and generous with their time and it is said that during the Penal times when it was forbidden to educate Catholics, they would teach the local children in hidden locations. This type of clandestine education is today known as ‘Hedge Schools’ it is believed Temple Moyle chapel was the location of a hedge school.

Tradition has it that Temple Moyle was thatched but during his 1640’s campaign when Cromwell came to Ireland it is said he set his cannon ball on Fleming’s shore and blew the roof off the chapel. They then

burned the church and roof. Since the burning of the roof the chapel was known as Chapel or Temple Moyle coming from the Irish 'Tempeall Maol' meaning 'The bald chapel'.

The bell was either blown by the force into, or depending who you speak to it was later taken by Cromwell's troops and dumped into, a part of the lake known as 'Bog Point' and is now buried in three or four feet of mud due to its weight. However, it was recorded in The Schools' Collection (Volume 0939, 140) that local tradition says the chapel bell was found in a corner of the lake when people were making turf there. It is not known where this bell is now though some people think it was sent to Dublin. There is no record of a discovery such as this within the Topographical Files (Section 3.7).

With regards to the attack by Cromwell on the Chapel it is worth noting that in each version of the story the location of the cannon varies from a hill to the north, to a hill to the east and to the shoreline. In one or two stories the cannons are situated at such a distance as to make an attack on the chapel impossible or at least highly improbable. It is also worth noting that there are no official records of Cromwell's forces making it as far as this area in Monaghan and the chapel is relatively intact considering the supposed cannon fire. It is said that Friar Martin, who lived near the chapel, said mass in Chapel Moyle despite the missing roof. The last Franciscan friar abandoned it in 1845.

The chapel is located at the NW end of an oval graveyard. It is recorded in The Schools' Collection (Volume 0939, 139) that in olden times when the lake was frozen in winter, remains were taken across it to the graveyard. Indeed the lake was often used as quick access to the graveyard and chapel as noted in a tale Tommy McEntee recounted about using a boat to bring a heavy concrete grave marker in the shape of a cross over to the graveyard.

The current access to the chapel and graveyard comprises an extremely steep gravel and tarmac laneway leading from the nearby local road (L4121) towards Lough Egish. The laneway leads to the chapel and continues around the graveyard, carrying on towards 'Friars well' and the house said to once have been occupied by the Friars. Friar McMahon lived at Cabra Cross, Castleblayney about 1848. In The Schools' Collection (Volume 0939, 139) local tradition tells that when the blight first came on the potatoes Friar McMahon blessed water in Friars well and told the people to sprinkle it on the fields to prevent the potatoes decaying.

According to Mr McEntee the current access laneway has always been the route to the church (at least for his lifetime) but was once only a dirt trail as wide as an ass's cart (this route is marked as a rough pathway on the 1835 OS map). This was to facilitate the carrying of coffins to the graveyard. He also mentioned that in some cases where the deceased was not well respected or very poor they would have to carry it by hand down the steep hill. In these situations he said they would cut sally rods from a willow tree, hold one end each and rest the coffin upon them to make it easier to carry.

People were still buried in this graveyard up until recently. The most recent grave marker noted during the graveyard survey was dated 2007. Within the chapel walls is a cross, multiple un-inscribed grave markers and two modern gravestones. Mr McEntee said that he was always told two priests were buried beneath

heap of tumbled stones located towards the east of the chapel interior. Their graves were marked with the white cross made out of reused cartwheels which is still present (Plate 39).

One of the modern gravestones marked John Duffy, buried 1969, belongs to the local blacksmith locally known as Johnny Stephen (Plate 9). Johnny Stephens forge is now a ruined stone building located at the top of the hill near the entrance to the approaching laneway. It is not known why Johnny Stephen was granted the privilege of being buried within the chapel. Mr McEntee remembers accompanying someone to a different blacksmith's forge as a child and witnessing the blacksmith give the cure to his companion (the cure of what is unclear). It was very common for blacksmiths to have the cure, particularly if the 'patient' drank the water from the forge. It is possible the water did in fact have healing properties due to the high levels of iron within it. This healing ability, along with their standing within the community as a necessary craftsman would have caused blacksmiths to be held in high regard. It is not known if Johnny Stephen himself had the cure and as a result was held in high esteem but it is very unusual for him to have been granted a position within the chapel walls. It is especially curious as he had no family. It is worth noting that throughout the graveyard and even within the chapel itself there are grave markers comprising of iron crosses made from reused cartwheels, it is possible Johnny Stephen made these grave markers and perhaps this was the reason he was granted the respect of burial within the chapel.

It is said that the 'Night of the 'Big Wind' on the 6th of January 1839 was the highest the level of the lake ever rose to and the fish were blown out of the lake and scattered around the shore. Finally, local tradition recounted by Peadar Connolly tells of a prophesy stating that on the day of a funeral the western gable wall (which currently appears unstable, Plate 34) will collapse on the mourners gathered and kill many people. We will be recommending that wall is stabilised before the next funeral.



Plate 9: Two modern graves within the western end of the chapel one marked John Duffy (left) and one John Gorman (right)

3.3 Place names

Research into a site or areas place name (or toponym) can provide information relating to an area's heritage or previous land use. Many townland names were anglicised by the time the Ordnance Survey (OS) began in the 1830s and when townland names were standardised in the Townland Index (1851).

The name Temple Moyle is an anglicised version of Tempeall Maol which is believed to mean Bald Temple referring to its unroofed state. Lough Egish (Irish-Loch Éigis) is believed to mean the 'lake of the learned man'. It is possible the name is referring to the friars living at Temple Moyle.

The townland name of Lattonfasky is not easily interpreted. In Irish the name is Leatón Foscaidh. While Leatón is likely a joining of leath (also: leith) half or side and tóin (also: tón) bottom (-land). The origin or meaning of Foscaidh is unknown. (www.loganim.ie).

Many water mills once sat along the course of the river which leaves Lough Egish, sawmills, grainmills and textile mills all driven by water power. It is from the density of mills along this river that gave rise to the name of the parish of Aghnamullen, deriving from 'Áth na Muilleán' (the river ford by the Mill) or 'Acadh na Muilleán' (the Plain of Mills) that is plain as in fields or places/sites (www.magoo.com).

Monaghan's unique drumlin landscape is recorded in its Irish name Mhuineachain which means "little hills or shrubbery". The landscape is varied to include the uplands of Sliabh Beagh and Mullyash to the north and east of the county respectively. In the central part of the County a series of low-lying lakes and wetlands extend from west to east. To the north and south of this belt of lakes the landscape character consists of high drumlin farmland. (Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025)

3.4 Record of Monuments & Places

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a statutory inventory of archaeological sites protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 (Section 12, 1994 Act), compiled and maintained by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI). The inventory concentrates on pre-1700 AD sites and is based on a previous inventory known as the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) which does not have legal protection or status (see www.archaeology.ie).

There are 15 monuments within a 2.5km radius of the subject site. The closest RMP a well (MO024-039) located 300m south of the church and graveyard. The well is depicted only on the 1907 edition of the OS 6-inch map where it is described in gothic lettering as 'Tober na Braher' – the brothers' well. The field in which it is situated is attached to a small farmstead that is the only dwelling on the peninsula depicted on the 1834 edition of the OS 6-inch map and was probably occupied by friars in the eighteenth century. The well is an oval structure (dims 1.5m x 0.9m) defined by a masonry wall (H 1.3m) and roofed with four lintels. There is an opening (Wth 0.5m) at W, but it is not a holy well.

The well is situated on a gentle SE-facing slope of a peninsula on the NE side of Lough Egish. When the Franciscans finally left their friary in Monaghan town (MO009-060002-) c. 1690 they probably maintained a presence in the county, although evidence of them is elusive. A report on the state of Popery in 1731

states categorically there were no Franciscans in Monaghan, although they were represented at Chapters of the Order held in Dublin in 1717 and 1729 (McKenna 1922, vol. 1, 13-14). In 1775 a bequest was made to the Franciscans of Lough Egish, and a farmhouse at Lattonfasky was called the Friars Garden while the well was known as the Brothers' Well (ibid. 1, 369) further records that 'within living memory' the eccentric ex-friar named Martin, disowned by his Order and the Bishop, led a congregation at Lattonfasky, so a Franciscan presence was maintained at Lough Egish into the late nineteenth century.

The well is depicted only on the 1907 edition of the OS 6-inch map where it is described in gothic lettering as 'Tober na Braher' – the brothers' well. The field in which it is situated is attached to a small farmstead that is the only dwelling on the peninsula depicted on the 1834 edition of the OS 6-inch map and was probably occupied by friars in the eighteenth century. The well is an oval structure (dims 1.5m x 0.9m) defined by a masonry wall (H 1.3m) and roofed with four lintels. There is an opening (Wth 0.5m) at W, but it is not a holy well.

Adjacent RMP sites are listed in full in Appendix 1 and are indicative of prehistoric, medieval and post medieval settlement in the area.

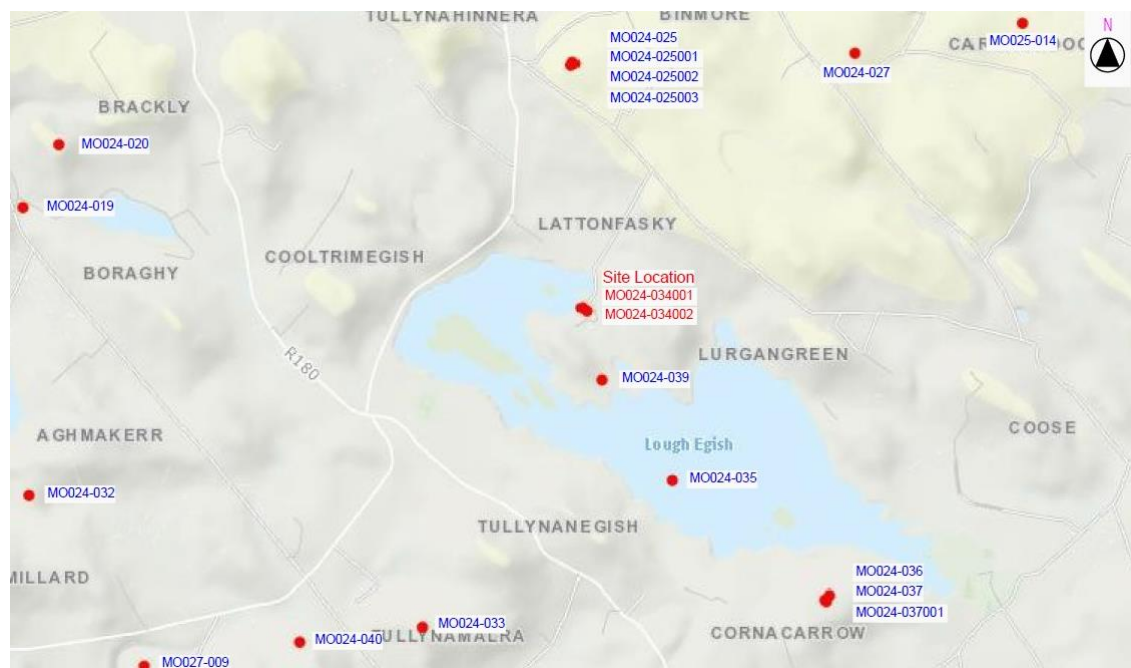


Figure 2: Surrounding RMPs

3.5 Cartographic Sources

Analysis of historic mapping can show human impact on landscape over a prolonged period. Large collections of historical maps (pre- and early Ordnance Survey maps as well as estate or private maps) are held at the Glucksman Map Library, Trinity College and other sources (UCD Library, Ordnance Survey Ireland, local libraries and published material). The development of the site and its vicinity recorded from late 16th Century to 20th Century cartography are described in (Figure 3 to 10). Lough Egish is noted on

all maps often labelled 'Egges'. Temple Moyle is depicted as a chapel/ holy area. No additional features of archaeological potential were noted within the subject site or the surrounding environs on the consulted cartographic sources.

Francis Jobson Map (1590). Lough Egish is depicted on this map as a triangular lake with two islands located to the SW of Lough Muckno. The writing is blurry and illegible but Temple Moyle church is marked to the north of the lake (Figure 3)



Figure 3: Jobson Map (1590)

Speeds Map (1610). Monaghan is shaded on this map in yellow with a darker yellow band outlining the county boundary. Lough Egish is depicted on this map, labelled 'Lo. Egges'. A structure is depicted near the lake which is labelled T. Egges (possibly meaning Temple Egish) which could be Temple Moyle Church. (Figure 4). Aghnamullen Friary is depicted to the west of Lough Egish. It is marked with a building topped with a cross beside a circle similar to Temple Moyle. It is labelled *Hagne mullen*. Blaney Castle Lake (also known as Lough Muckno) is marked on this map to the NE of the subject site, labelled as *Lo. Muckne*.



Figure 4: Speed 1610

Blaeu Map (1654). Lough Egish is depicted on this map as a triangular shaped lake with an island to the north. It is labelled *Lo Egges*. To the NE of this lake a cross on top of a building and circle mark the location of Temple Moyle Church and Graveyard. It is labelled *B. Egges*. The surrounding countryside is depicted as hilly land (Figure 5).



Figure 5: Blaeu Map (1654)

Sansom Map (1778). Lough Egish is depicted as a sub triangular lake and labelled as *Egges*. There is no indication of the church on this map (Figure 6).



Figure 6: Sansom Map (1778)

First Edition, 6 inch, OS Map (1835). Temple Moyle church is depicted within this map enclosed within the graveyard. It is labelled '*church in ruins*'. The surrounding landscape is recorded as pasture fields. There is a structure located c.60m to the west of the graveyard and two structures located c.60m to the east (Figure 7).



Figure 7: 1st Edition OS Map (1835)

2nd Edition OS Map (1880). Less detailed than the earlier map. The church and graveyard is marked by a circle with a cross inside it. It is labelled Church (Figure 8).



Figure 8: 2nd Edition OS Map (1880)

3rd Edition, 25 inch, OS Map (1888-1910). The church and graveyard are depicted in detail within this map. For the first time the church is labelled '*Templemoyle (in ruins)*' (Figure 9).

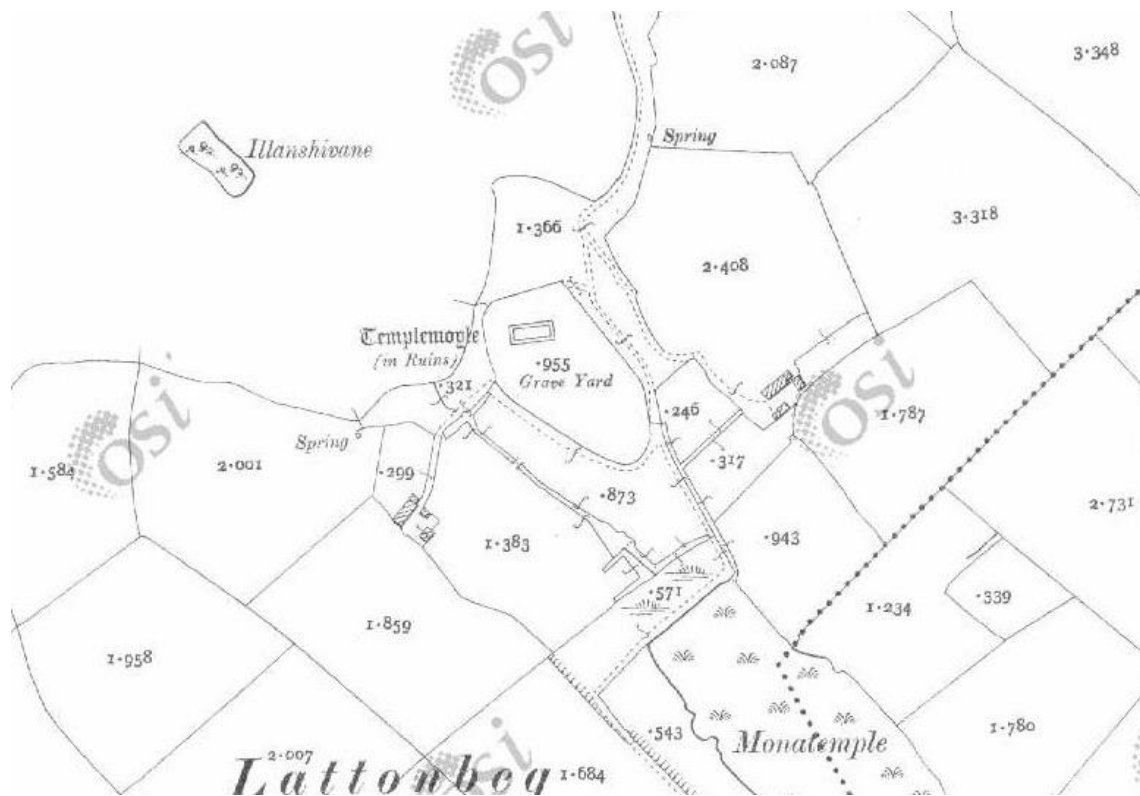


Figure 9: 3rd Edition OS Map (1888-1910)

Cassini Map (1910-1940). No change from previous map (Figure 10).

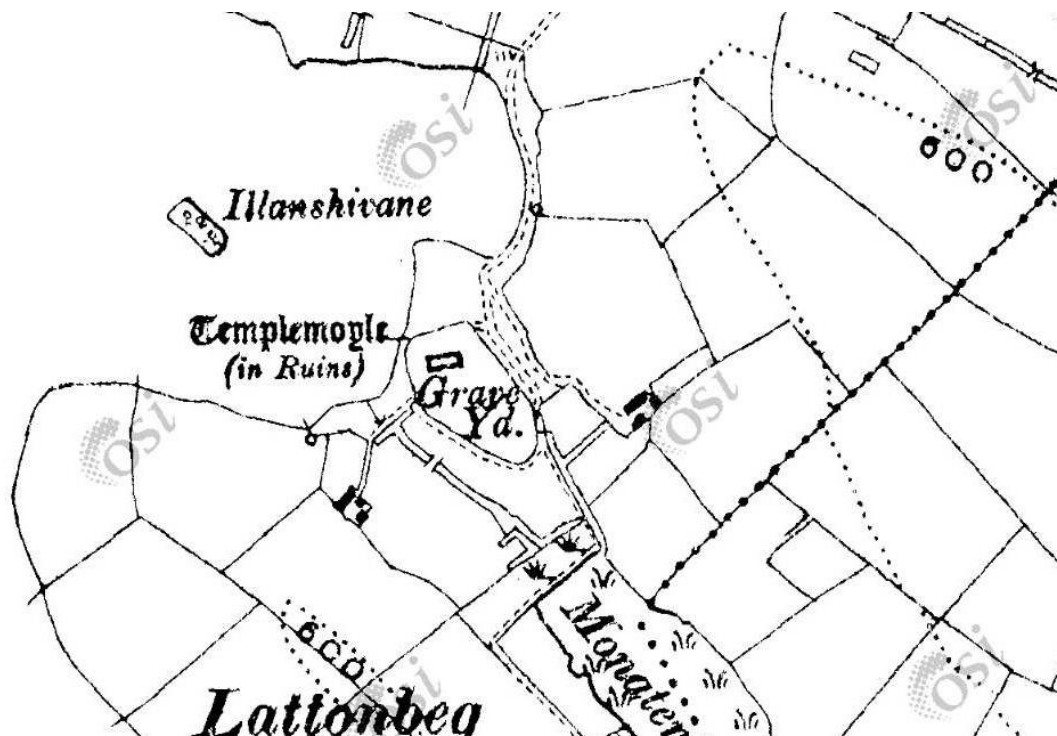


Figure 10: Cassini Map (1910-1940)

3.6 Aerial photography

Aerial photography (or other forms of remote sensing) may reveal certain archaeological features or sites (earthworks, crop marks, soil marks) that for many reasons may not be appreciated at ground level. There are a number of available collections including the National Monuments Section, Geological Survey of Ireland (1970–73), Ordnance Survey of Ireland (1995, 2000, 2005), National Museum of Ireland (St Joseph CUCAP Collection) and Air Corps (1950's–1970's). Online orthostatic photographs of the site were examined (Ordnance Survey Ireland 1995, 2000 & 2005; Google Maps 2019). No potential archaeological features were noted on the consulted sources.

The OS Aerial photographs (1995) are black and white. The Site is shown in its current layout. The surrounding landscape is depicted as pasture fields. There is no change in the OSI 2000 (Figure 11), OSI 2005-2012, Digital globe 2005-2013 (Figure 12) and the modern Google Earth Aerial photograph 2019.



Figure 11: Aerial Photograph (2000)

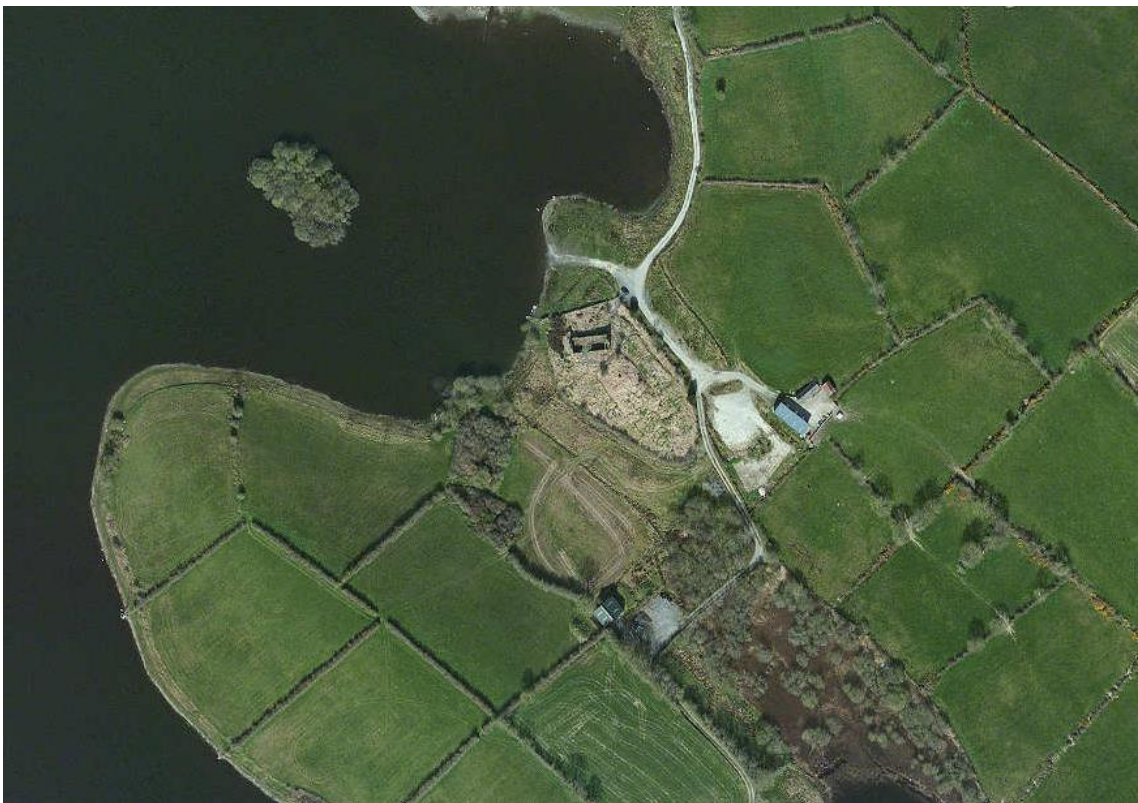


Figure 12: Digital Globe (2005-2013)

3.7 Topographical files

The National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files is the national archive of all known antiquities recorded by the National Museum listed by county and townland/ street. These files relate primarily to artefacts but also include references to monuments and contain a unique archive of records of previous archaeological excavations. The Museum files present an accurate catalogue of objects reported to that institution from 1928. The topographical files were searched for the townland of Lattonfasky and the surrounding townlands of Lurgangreen, Lagan, Binmore, Cooltrimegish and Tullynanegish, Co. Monaghan. Only one find, a beehive quern stone (1968:429), was recorded from Tullnahinera, the townland which neighbours Lattonfasky to the north. The beehive quern stone is the earliest type of rotary quern stone to be noted in Ireland around 400-300BC.

3.8 Previous Archaeological Excavations

The Excavation Bulletin is a database of summary accounts of archaeological excavations in Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1970 to 2020. Summaries relating to archaeological excavations undertaken by the National Roads Authority are also available on-line and were consulted for any adjacent sites. Reports on licensed archaeological works are also held by the Archive Unit of the National Monuments Section.

No previous archaeological excavations have been undertaken at the subject site. Testing was undertaken on the site of a proposed dwelling-house in the townland of Boraghy, to the south-west of Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan, c.2km west of the subject area. The site was located adjacent to a ringfort (MO024-019). A total of five linear test-trenches were excavated across the site, comprising 210m² of trenches. No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were identified in the test-trenches during testing. There were no additional excavations within a 2km radius of the subject site.

3.9 Architectural Heritage

Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility to safeguard architectural heritage in accordance with Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000. Under S.51 (1), a County Council must compile a Record of Protected Structures (RPS), which lists all structures that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest. The protection, unless otherwise stated, includes the exterior and interior of the structure, lands lying within its curtilage (boundary), other structures and their interiors within the curtilage, plus all fixtures and fittings that form part of the interior or exterior of any of these structures. Buildings can be added to, or deleted from the RPS at any time, though generally this occurs when the county development plan is being reviewed. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) was established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. Its purpose is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. It is intended to provide

a basis for recommendations of the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to Local Authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in Records of Protected Structures (RPS). Temple Moyle is not listed on the Record of Protected Structures.

4. Archaeological Surveys

4.1 Walkover survey

The site is situated on a peninsula located on the northern shore of Lough Egish. The graveyard is surrounded by a stone faced bank and accessed through iron gates flanked by large stone peers. It was first visited on Saturday 14th August 2021 and was noted to be heavily overgrown in parts. The section of the graveyard to the north and northwest of the chapel was covered in thick heather. The chapel was obscured by long grass, wild flowers, sapling trees and brambles. The remainder of the graveyard is covered by long grass and saplings. In some areas more established trees (Sycamore, Ash, Rowan and Crab Apple) can be noted (Figures 1-6).



Plate 10: NW corner of Chapel, facing SE, showing collapse and brush overgrowth



Plate 11: Northern face of chapel, facing S, showing overgrowth of brambles and shrubs, Facing S



Plate 12: Eastern interior of chapel, Facing E

The overgrown areas surrounding and within the chapel were landscaped on Saturday the 18th of Sept 2021. Professional Landscaper Aidan Flanagan and his team conducted the work using strimmer's and hedge trimmers. For closer work loppers and secateurs were utilised. Finally, a leaf blower was used to clear the debris. All work was conducted under archaeological supervision. The works comprised a c.3m wide cleared area encircling the chapel. The interior of the chapel was also cleared. Any brambles which were growing through the wall were snipped close to the wall. The work resulted in the chapel walls being clearly visible down to the ground (Plate 10- 20). There were three large heaps of tumbled stones which had previously not been visible; one at the NW corner which came from the collapse of the corner of the chapel, and two at the eastern gable- one interior and one exterior- which came from the collapse of the eastern window opening (Plate 16-20).

The ruin of the chapel is in good condition considering its years. It is currently unroofed but records show it has been unroofed for centuries. The walls, for the most part, stand to their original height. Some stone facing has fallen away leading to further erosion around those areas. The walls were mortared with a lime, sand and pebble mortar which is heavily eroded in certain places leading to small heaps of sand and pebbles at the base of the wall. There is no evidence of plaster on the interior of exterior wall. Further details of the structure can be found in section 4.2.



Plate 13 (L): Landscaping work gets underway at eastern gable of chapel, facing S
Plate 14 (R): The northern face of the chapel was extremely overgrown, facing W



Plate 15 (L): Southern face of chapel heavily obscured, Facing W
Plate 16 (R): Landscaping works completed, NE corner of chapel, note previously unnoticed stone tumble at eastern gable and previously unseen headstones along northern wall, facing SW



Plate 17 (L): Landscaping works completed, Southern wall of chapel, Facing W
Plate 18 (R): Landscaping work completed, Eastern interior of chapel, note heap of collapsed stone beneath window, Facing E



Plate 19 (L): Landscaping work completed, western interior of chapel, Facing W

Plate 20 (R): Landscaping work complete, northern wall and collapsed NW corner stone heap, Facing SE

4.2 Architectural Survey and Condition Assessment

Temple Moyle Chapel is a late medieval (14th-15th Century) single celled chapel. It is a rectangular structure aligned ENE/WSW. It has no roof and each elevation is in varying stages of deterioration. It is primarily affected by two inter-related deterioration mechanisms – the deterioration of the lime-based mortars bonding the masonry, and penetration by brambles, plants and moisture. These have resulted in the formation of large structural cracks, the dislodgement of large stones (which are at risk of falling from the face of the wall), the collapse of parts of the wall, and the dislodgement of the outer face of the masonry in some locations which threaten further collapses. In addition, window openings in the east, south and west walls have suffered heavy collapse while a large area of the southern wall is missing presumably where the door would once have been. The masonry walls have been affected in part by penetrating brambles, ferns, grass and shrubs. The masonry walls have been built using a lime, sand and pebble mortar which is heavily weathered in some places.

The upstanding structure was surveyed by Bart Korfanty on the 28th Sept 2021. This involved photogrammetry and 3D modelling of the chapel and a drone survey of the graveyard. These resulted in detailed technical drawings of the walls produced on AutoCAD (Autodesk AutoCAD LT 2021) (Figure 13-17). The chapel measured c. 18m long x c.6.40m wide. The walls varied in depth between 0.80m -1.20m with the gable walls on average measuring deeper than the side walls.

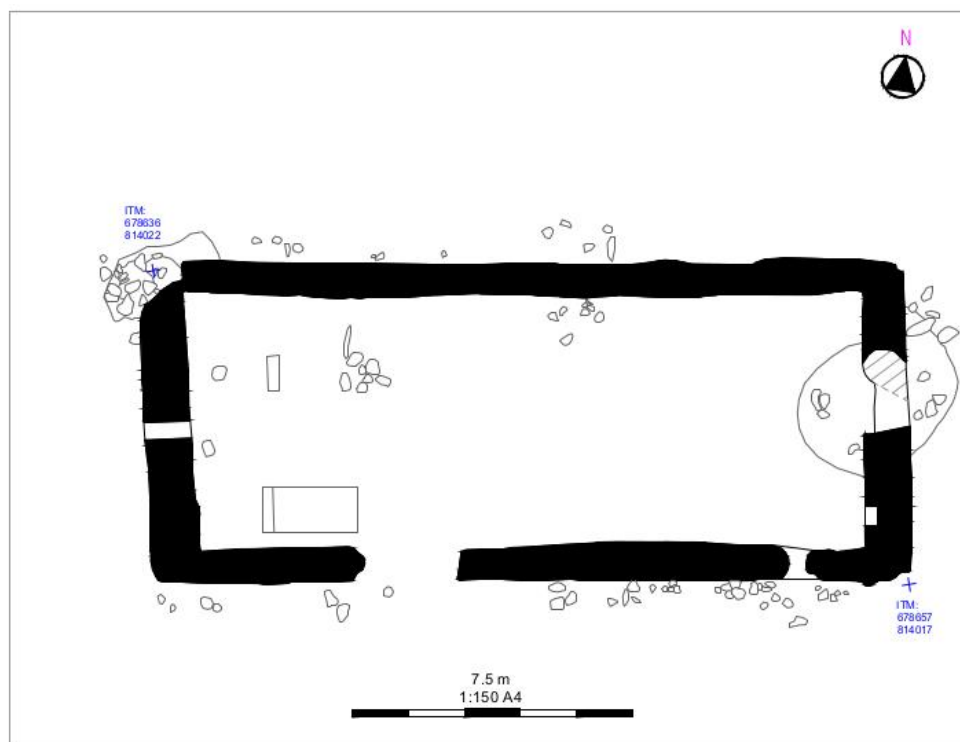


Figure 13: Plan of chapel

4.2.1 East Wall

The eastern wall is aligned NNW/SSE and contains one large window opening. It stands 6.7m tall at its highest point (Figure 14). The wall, although heavily obscured by shrubs was least affected by brambles and ferns. A large opening in the centre of the wall measuring 4m high x 2m wide marks the location of the window. Substantial portions of the masonry from around the window, especially above and to the north of the original opening have collapsed and fallen away (Plate 21 & 22). The original splayed opening survives on the southern side and some narrow vertically laid stones visible on the internal wall face may indicate partial survival of the original arch.

Both the NE and SE exterior corners of the eastern gable have fallen away exposing the lime and pebble mortar. In these areas the collapse of the corner stones has the consequence of a significant reduction of support for all walls which meet at the corners. The exposure of the mortar to weathering will result in further erosion and collapse as can be noted in many areas (Plate 23). There are also further areas of collapse on the main body of the east wall on both the internal and external face (Plate 25).

On the interior face of this elevation, above the collapsed window opening, a large open crack can be noted radiating across the remaining arch / highest point of this wall. This suggests the arch is in danger of collapse (Plate 22). It is also worth noting that in this part of the wall there is a small remaining section of the horizontal ledge which would have held the roof rafters. It corresponds well with a similar, but better preserved, horizontal ledge on the western wall. (Plate 22 & Plate 36)

A rectangular hollow was built into the interior face of the eastern elevation wall (0.25m H x 0.40m W x 0.35m D). It was located in the lower southern (right) corner of the wall (Plate 24). It is likely this was used

as an ambry. An ambry is a cupboard of recess with a door in the wall of a church used to hold the Eucharist or Holy Oils.

Across the east wall and all across the chapel, grass and ferns can be noted growing between stones. Grass is particularly prominent across the bottom of the window opening and along the top of the wall itself. Roots of grass and ferns are unlikely to cause great damage and it is advised not to remove them. Tall grass, shrubs and small trees in the form of ash and sloe were growing in this area. They were removed during the landscaping works. A large tree stump is present near the window opening on the interior of the chapel. It appears to be some decades old and was manually cut 0.50m from the ground. The root systems of this large tree are likely to have penetrated to some depth and could have added to the destabilisation of this wall (Plate 24).

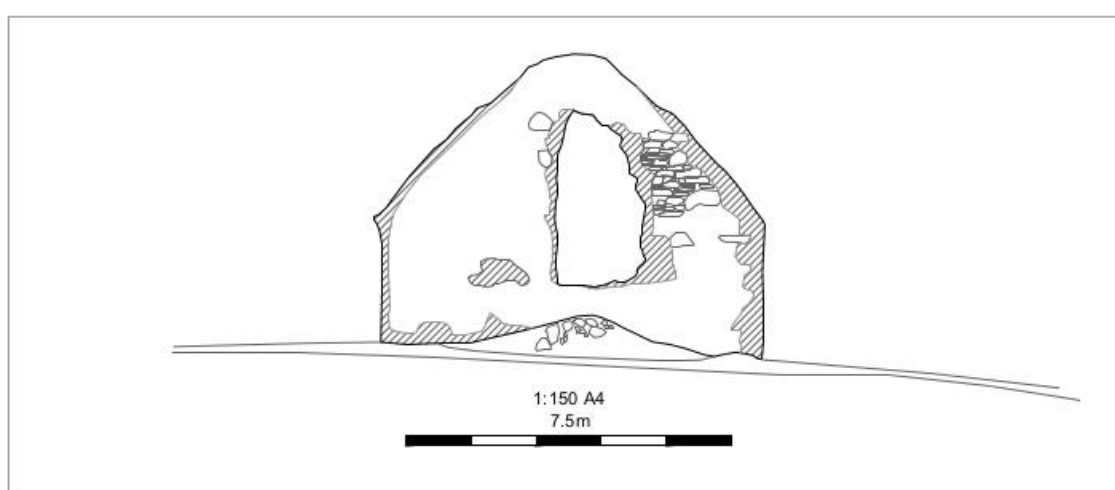


Figure 14: East Elevation (exterior)

The key issues affecting the east elevation are:

- Collapse of the stones within the window opening leading to lack of support and destabilisation of the top of the wall and remaining arch. This has resulted in a large open crack which suggests the arch is at risk of collapse.
- Loss of mortar on the corners of the building, the top of the wall and certain patches along the wall face is leading to weathering of mortar resulting in further dislodgement of stones.
- Growth of long grass, ferns and shrubs concealed the condition of the masonry along the wall.
- The large tree stump next to the internal face of the east elevation suggests a large tree once grew there which possibly contributed to the destabilisation of this wall.



Plate 21: Eastern Elevation (exterior), note the collapsed window and heap of stones at the base, the original window edge and partial arch can be seen along the southern (left) side of the window



**Plate 22 (L): Eastern Elevation (interior), note original window edge and partial arch. Also note the large crack above the opening suggesting the wall is in danger of complete collapse.
Plate 23 (R): SE corner collapse, note the exposed mortar**



Plate 24 (L): Small box built into the interior face of the Eastern elevation, to the lower southern (right) side. Possibly the ambry, Note areas of collapse and large tree stump (bottom left)

Plate 25 (R): Detail of lime and pebble mortar and how it has become weathered by rain water.

4.2.2 South Wall

The southern wall is the least well preserved. It is aligned ENE/WSW with at least one window and a door (Figure 15). There is a 0.63m wide opening located towards the eastern corner of the wall. It is faced on both sides suggesting it was a window. Similar to the large window in the eastern wall it was splayed, although large portions of the surrounding masonry have collapsed (Plate 26-29).

Towards the middle/ western end of the wall is a large gap measuring c. 5.70m wide. It is likely the entrance leading to the Nave of the chapel (the central part of a church where the congregation gathers). The collapse of the door led to the erosion and destabilisation of the surrounding wall. This dilapidated section is currently capped with grass and ferns but exposed areas are clearly weathered and eroding. Mortar is falling away and many stones look loose and ready to tumble. There is no evidence of the original edges of the doorway (Plate 27).

The south wall is in a deteriorated state and substantial sections of the external wall face have fallen away exposing the mortar. For the most part this is due to weathering but in some areas brambles have grown through the walls. These have since been snipped close to the wall and so should not cause any further issues. In the central area this erosion has led to a lot of decay and collapse. Collapse of the western corner has led to the destabilisation of the west elevation (Plate 28).

The interior face of the south wall displays three beam-holes. One is located c.6.60m from the SE corner (Plate 29). This is likely to be the socket for a beam supporting the rood- screen. A rood- screen, steps or a rail were used to divide the nave (congregation) from the alter (clergy), often in a ratio of 2:1. The inner

face of the opposite north wall has collapsed in this location so the matching beam-hole cannot be recorded. Towards the western end of the inner face of the south wall there is a large beam hole and two smaller holes, these smaller holes may be indicative of voids for two corbels which were removed (Plate 30). It is likely they were in place to support a wooden gallery at the western end of the chapel. This theory is supported by the high window in the western wall which would have provided light to the high gallery.

The key issues affecting the south elevation are:

- Collapse of the stones within the small window opening leading to lack of support and destabilisation of the top of the wall. This has resulted in a complete section of the wall collapsing.
- Brambles were noted growing through the wall in multiple places. All have been snipped during landscaping but are at risk of regrowth from the ground up.
- The collapse of the doorway has led to severe collapse of the western side of this elevation.
- Loss of mortar on the corners of the building, the top of the wall and certain patches along the wall face is leading to weathering of mortar resulting in further dislodgement of stones particularly around the area of the collapsed doorway.
- Beam-holes have been noted on the interior face but corbels which once supported the gallery have been removed.
- External wall face has fallen away over a substantial portion of the wall.

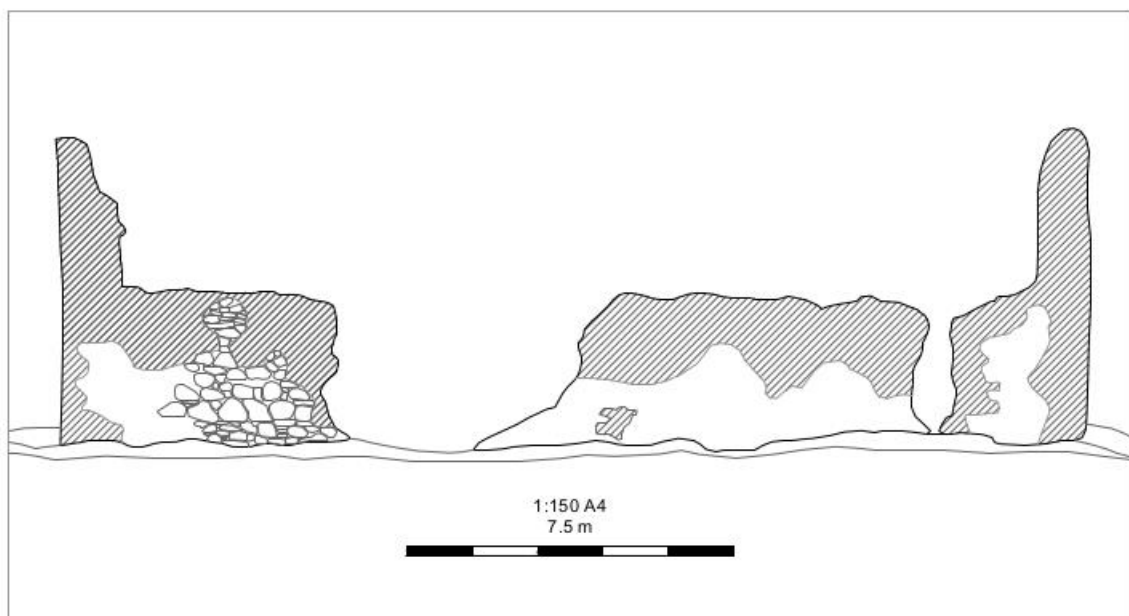


Figure 15: South elevation (exterior)



Plate 26 (L): Interior face of south elevation showing narrow collapsed window opening. Note how the stones are placed diagonally to allow for the interior of the window to be wider than the exterior, also note how it appears the window would have sloped upwards to meet in a point.

Plate 27 (R): South elevation, large gap towards western end.



Plate 28 (L): Western side of the south elevation showing the erosion, grass growth and areas of damage and the eroding south western corner.

Plate 29 (R): Southern elevation, interior face. Note the narrow window (left) which is rising at an angle. An area of collapse can be seen in the centre and a large beam-hole can be seen to the right possibly for the rood-screen.



Plate 30: Inner face of south wall, towards the western side. Three beam-holes or empty slots that once held corbel stones for a wooden gallery

4.2.3 West Wall

The is aligned NNE/SSW, with a small window high in the wall opening onto the gallery. It stands to a maximum height of c.6.25m but is in a poor state of repair. The NW corner has completely collapsed. The corner and lower northern section of the wall has become undermined by erosion and collapse. As a result the western gable wall no longer has any contact with or support from the northern wall and has a dangerous westward tilt away from the northern wall. Although the locals say it has stayed in this position for many years it would appear to be unstable (Plate 34). There are two decorated/inscribed stones on the external face of the western gable (Plate 5 & 6). These are described in detail in section 2.1.

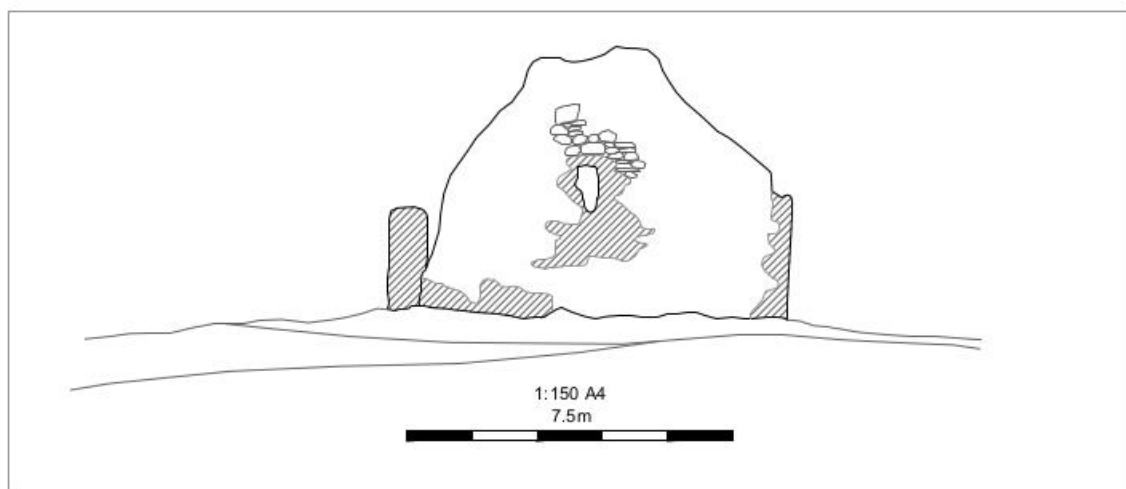


Figure 16: West elevation (exterior)

The internal wall face is heavily eroded with large parts of the central area collapsed. The window, which is situated c.2.60m above ground measures max c.1m high x c.0.50m wide. The window is similar to the others in that it has splayed and faced edges, although with an apparently simple flat lintel. This window is higher than both the window in the east and south walls in order to open onto the original wooden gallery. Possible evidence for the gallery can also be found on this wall in the form of two (possibly three) holes representing removed corbel stones which would have supported the gallery beams (Plate 35).

Towards the top of the interior gable wall there is a grass covered horizontal ledge which would once have held the rafters that supported the roof. There is a similar but less well preserved corresponding lip on the interior face of the eastern elevation (Plate 36).

In late medieval, single cell churches of this type a bellcote is often noted on the western gable wall. This often takes the form of a small frame or shelter which would house the bell, built into a projection of the western gable wall. There are no remains of a bellcote in this wall however it is worth noting that the apex of the western gable is wider than the apex of the eastern elevation perhaps suggesting it continued into a bellcote. This is particularly notable if you compare the width of the apex above the horizontal ledge on the interior of the east gable (2.5m wide) and compare it to the width of the west gable (3.2m wide) (Plate 22 &

Plate 36). While there is no firm evidence or records of a bellcote local folklore suggests that the bellcote was damaged by Cromwell's troops and the bell was dumped in the deepest part of Lough Egish after which they burned the thatched roof.

The key issues with the west elevation are:

- Collapse of the stones within the small window opening on both the interior and exterior faces has led to erosion and partial collapse in the surrounding wall on both sides.
- The external NW corner of the west gable is heavily collapsed and undermined. As a result there is a dangerous westward tilt on the whole wall suggesting it is at risk of collapse.
- Two engraved stones are located on the west gable. The first is situated in the external NW corner and so is in danger of collapse. It comprises lines of indecipherable text. The second is located beneath the window and looks to be a cross.
- Loss of mortar on the corners of the building, the top of the wall and certain patches along the wall face is leading to loss of facing stones and weathering of mortar resulting in further dislodgement of stones particularly around the area of the collapsed window and NW corner.
- Two (possibly three) holes have been noted on the interior face where corbels which once supported the gallery have been removed.
- A grassy horizontal ledge runs along the top of the interior face which would have supported the roof rafters.
- The apex of the western gable is wider than the apex of the eastern gable suggesting it may have once continued on into a bellcote.



Plate 31 (L): West elevation, note severe collapse on the NW corner and high window
Plate 32 (R): Western Elevation, note collapse around the high window



Plate 33: Engraved stone located in NW corner of west gable
Plate 34: Collapsed NW corner of the western elevation. Note the heavy westward tilt of the wall



Plate 35: Inner face of west elevation, note the high windows and gaps for corbels, also note the collapse of the centre of the wall
Plate 36: Upper part of the wall, Note the grass covered horizontal ledge near the top of the wall for holding the roof rafters

4.2.4 North Wall

The external face of the north wall is the best preserved wall of the chapel (Plate 37 & 38). It is aligned ENE/WSW and was densely covered and obscured by saplings and brambles prior to the landscaping works (Figure 17, Plate 14 & 20). Both the NW and NE corners have suffered from partial erosion and collapse. Brambles had grown through the wall in this location and were snipped during the landscaping works. It is likely that some of the damage seen on the exterior and interior face of the north elevation are as a result of the brambles.

The internal face is not so well preserved. The facing stones have collapsed across many sections. It is also densely covered in grass and ferns. As a result it is not possible to record beam or corbel holes on this wall which may correspond with those on the south and west walls. There were no doors or windows in this wall.

There is a decorated/inscribed stone located on high on the internal face of the north wall (Plate 7). It is described in detail in Section 2.1.

The key issues affecting the north elevation are:

- The mortar is eroding from between the stones in both corners, along the top of the wall and in small patches on the interior and exterior face this is resulting in partial collapse and loss of stones.
- Grass and ferns are obscuring the stones on the inner face of the wall
- Brambles are growing thickly along the wall, they were cut back during landscaping but will continue to grow in spring, they were recorded growing through the wall and snipped in those locations. It is possible the brambles could cause further damage to the walls.
- A decorated/ engraved stone was recorded on the interior face of the wall.

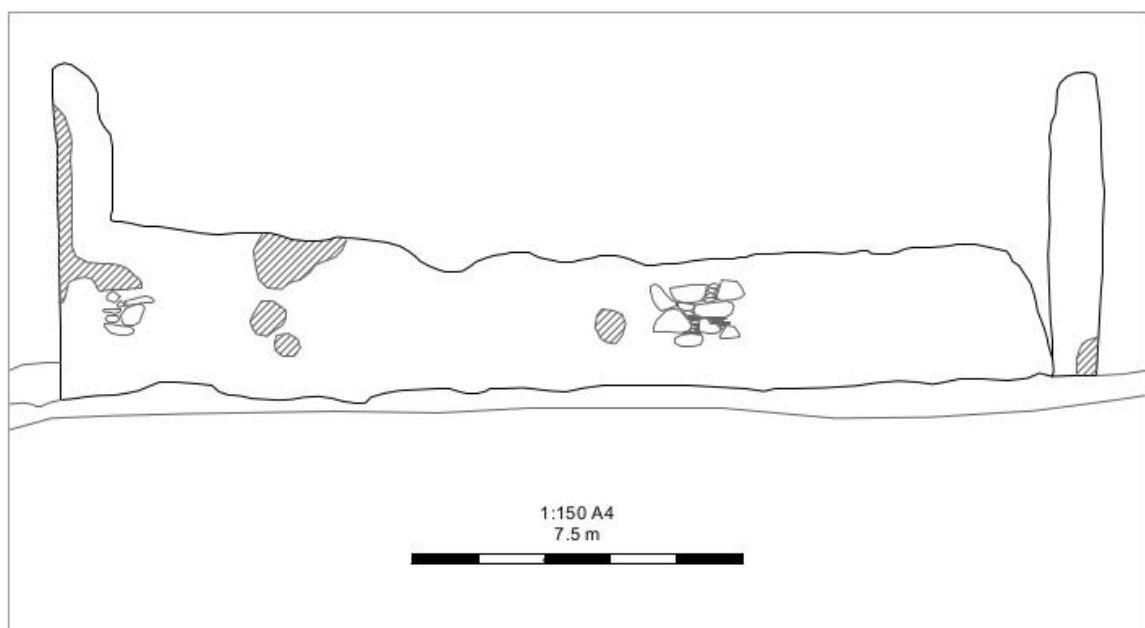


Figure 17: North Elevation (Exterior)



Plate 37 (L): Northern elevation, note the ferns in the wall and the remains of the dense thicket of brambles on the ground.

Plate 38 (R): Interior face of northern elevation heavily obscured by plants and partially collapsed in many places.

4.2.5 Memorials and Burials within the chapel

There are two modern gravestones, a head stone dating to the 18th century, an undated white Iron cross and multiple erect thin stone slabs which are unmarked within the chapel. The cross, made out of cartwheels, is said to mark the grave of two priests. The southernmost modern headstone marks John Duffy, dated 1969 while the northernmost modern headstone marks John Gorman and his family. Photos taken no earlier than 2003 suggest this grave is a recent addition to the chapel.



Plate 39: Painted white iron cross within chapel

Plate 40: Modern gravestone with 18th C gravestone behind it and unmarked headstones in front and beside within chapel

4.2.6 Vegetation

The brambles, saplings and shrubs which surrounded the chapel have been removed. They were particularly thick to the north of the structure. The brambles have developed a deep root system and will regrow quickly without further intervention. They had penetrated the walls, particularly the northern wall allowing for water ingress and accelerating loss of mortar and therefore loss of structural integrity. These penetrating brambles were snipped close to the wall and should not regrow assuming they have not rooted within the wall.

There is a large stump near the eastern interior wall which signifies that a large tree once grew in this area. This would have added significantly to the decay of the eastern wall.

Lichens are present and noted on all faces of the wall. These are relatively benign and are not associated with any stone decay. There is no reason to clean off or remove the existing lichens and these should be allowed to remain throughout.

It is worth noting that there was no ivy on the chapel or within the surrounding graveyard.

4.2.7 Defects in the Walls

The wall tops are generally broken and uneven, with significant mortar loss and disturbance from the continuing growth of invasive vegetation such as ferns and grass. The walls are exposed to rainfall not only on the external and internal faces, but rainwater also seeps down from the wall-top to saturate the

core of the wall. This results in a poor quality core with extensive mortar loss, unstable unsupported facework and detaching dislodged stones. The cornerstones on all corners have been lost with severe loss in the NW corner. This collapse in the NW corner has resulted in severe undermining and a dangerous westward tilt of the unsupported western gable.

The stone facing of the external face on the southern wall, internal face of the northern wall and internal face of western gable has collapsed in significantly large patches all across the wall. This has resulted in further weathering of the mortar and destabilisation of the core in all three walls. Large segments of the eastern wall have been lost surrounding the original window arch through similar mechanisms. As a result there is a wide vertical structural crack in the arch of the eastern wall. The three windows and doorways are areas of extreme weakness within this structure leading to collapse surrounding all three windows and a large 4m wide gap in the southern wall where the doorway once stood.

The surviving mortar is exposed in many areas and would be vulnerable to water-related decay processes, particularly in the areas where the stone facing has fallen away exposing the wall core. The greywacke used to build the stone walls is generally fit for purpose, but has a number of inherent faults (planes of weakness in the stone structure) which render it vulnerable to cracking when the supporting mortar has been lost.

4.2.8 Wildlife

There were no indications of nesting birds or bats at the church (which can sometimes be found in the small cavities typical of ruined masonry structures). Under the Wildlife Acts it is illegal to destroy (e.g. by cutting, burning, grubbing up or spraying) vegetation on uncultivated land during the bird-nesting season (March 1st – August 31st), and this practice is sometimes extended to works on ruined buildings as an example of ‘best practice’. However, it is not illegal to cut back ivy or other vegetation growing on a wall or other built structure during this season.

4.2.9 Discussion

The key threats to the fabric of Temple Moyle Chapel are the instability of the masonry walls and the growth of invasive vegetation. It is important to note that ruined structures behave differently to roofed intact buildings (which are largely weatherproof). Ruined roofless structures are particularly exposed to weathering, with significant amounts of rain falling on all parts of the masonry leading to loss of mortar between the stones and in the wall core. While it can be tempting to assume that because a ruined structure has survived for centuries that it will continue to survive in the same state for decades or centuries more, this is unfortunately not true. Temple Moyle Chapel has now reached a point where conservation works are urgently required to protect the structure particularly on the east and west gables.

4.3 Graveyard survey and condition assessment

The graveyard is roughly oval in shape and measures c.98m NW/SE x c.52m NE/SW. It is aligned NW/SE with the chapel situated towards the northern end. The graveyard is approached by a laneway connected to an extremely steep gravel and tarmac lane leading from the nearby local road (L4121) towards Lough Egish. The lane widens as it approaches the entrance to the graveyard allowing space for turning and parking.

The entrance to the graveyard, located in its northern corner, is flanked by two large, square pillars measuring c.2m tall x c.1m wide. These appear to be of modern construction as they are held together with concrete but they are sympathetically designed and complement the chapel stonework well. Both piers have a large growth of ferns on the top and are covered in lichen. The gates themselves are iron with a wrought iron design at the centre (Plate 41).

The earthen bank which surrounds most of the graveyard emerges from the southernmost pier and runs SE. It is not built into to the pier and does not fully abut it which suggests this is perhaps the original bank and the pillar is a more recent addition (Plate 42). The bank is c.1.7m high x c.1.5m wide. Closer inspection revealed it to be a very overgrown and in places partially collapsed wall or stone faced bank. It appears to be constructed with the same stone type as the chapel, no cement was noted on inspection (Plate 43). To the rear (west) of the northernmost pier is a collapsed wall of similar construction to the pier running ENE/WSW measuring c.0.75m wide x 0.35m high x c.35m long. The wall abuts the pier and is likely to be contemporary with it. It is possible the wall truncates part of the northern section of the graveyard (Plate 44).



Plate 41 (L): Entrance gate to graveyard, note 2m high bank to left and the gap between the pillar and the bank

Plate 42 (R): Outer bank surrounding the graveyard, Facing SE



Plate 43 (L): Detail of outer bank, note the stone wall hidden beneath moss, grass and ferns
Plate 44 (R): Wall running SSW from the gate post

There are no manmade paths within the graveyard however there is a worn path leading from the gate to the chapel past an old crab apple tree. It is a short, steep rise from the gate to the hill on which the chapel is built. The graveyard is overgrown with long grass, brambles and trees. Paths have been worn around the chapel and in a loop around the graveyard allowing easy access to the southern parts of the graveyard. There are many inaccessible areas which are heavily obscured with bramble thickets to the east and west and thick heather to the north. Patron Sunday, also known as Blessing of the Graves, takes place annually in the graveyard which allows the locals to perform some minor landscaping maintenance such as cutting back some of the brambles, coppicing the Rowan trees near the chapel and cutting the grass back near paths and certain graves.

The graveyard comprises an internal ditch and bank which encloses a natural rise in the bedrock. The ditch is particularly noteworthy along the northern and eastern sides with a max width of c.2m and depth of c.1.5m. This ditch becomes more shallow and narrow as it passes along the south and western sides.



Plate 45 (L): Wide internal ditch to east of graveyard, bank on left, graveyard and chapel on left, facing north
Plate 46 (R): Narrow and shallow ditch and bank to SW of graveyard, facing SW

In parts of the graveyard the bedrock is very shallow and exposed. The locals mentioned that the topsoil is no more than 0.30-0.40m deep across the centre of the graveyard. Unusual for Christian burials it is

reported that burials in this graveyard were sometimes dug in 'every direction as the rock allows' instead of the standard E/W alignment (Shirley 1879, 349). As a result the main method for burying in this graveyard involved of partial interment and entombing the shallow grave or partially exposed body with stones in long low cairns (Plate 47). This method of burial was noted in many places across the graveyard. In one area towards the SE end of the graveyard, the grass had been cut and well maintained by the family of the deceased. This exposed a family plot which had been used for generations. As a result of the repeated entombment with low cairns in this area the family plot can be seen as a low square mound (Plate 48).



Plate 47 (L): An example of stones piled on top of the body as a result of the bedrock preventing grave excavation

Plate 48 (R): An example of a raised family plot as a result of generations of stone entombment

There are a variety of grave markers within the graveyard. Modern black and white marble and concrete engraved gravestones mark relatively modern burials across the site. Two are located within the chapel itself. There are engraved headstones dating from the 18th century onwards (Plate 49-50). They take the form of the small simple headstones, large rectangular recumbent slabs and a few upright decorated stone. There are also iron crosses, some of which were made from reused cart wheels, which were utilised as grave markers across the graveyard. One iron cross within the chapel is said to mark the burial place of two priests (Plate 39).



Plate 49 (L): A decorated headstone in the foreground with a plain un-inscribed gravestone in the background

Plate 50 (R): Most recent head stone (2007) with older un-inscribed headstones behind it

4.3.1 Wildlife and Botany

The graveyard is an oasis of native plants within a farmed pastoral landscape. There were a variety of bird species noted during the multiple visits to site. Berries on the Rowan and Holly trees and Blackberry bushes provided ample food for them. Wild animals were not seen but narrow tracks leading through the graves and into the bushes hint at their presence. Brambles and thick heather such as that found in the graveyard are often the home for foxes, hares and badgers. In the surrounding landscape this type of habitat exists solely within the hedges as the wide open green field offer little shelter or protection. It would be worth bearing this in mind when it comes to plans for landscaping the graveyard.

The graveyard is unusual within the surrounding landscape as it has never been treated with weed killers or artificial fertilisers. It is common throughout Ireland for old graveyards such this one to be havens for unusual or rare native plants as a result of the lack of intervention. Some of their plants may have been eradicated from the surrounding landscape as a result of intensive farming, grazing, pollution and overuse of weedkillers. The plants which are currently growing within the graveyard are not causing any damage to the graveyard providing they are maintained near the ruin. They are extremely beneficial to the wildlife of the area and provide a refuge for rare or endangered species and <https://www.msn.com/en-ie/feed> so it would be desirable to retain them albeit slightly more landscaped in certain areas.

4.4 3D Survey

3D survey is a software solution for land survey data processing. Photos taken with a digital camera and from a Drone mounted camera are processed to produce orthophoto maps, digital surface models and a true representation of a building with stone-by-stone accuracy. The equipment used was a DJI Mavic Pro drone. The software used was Meshroom. The 3D version of the image can be opened with Windows Object viewer or in more detail with free software called MeshLab.

4.5 Digital Surface Models

It was hoped that LIDAR surveys of the area would be available to assess the possibility of unknown earthworks or structures associated with the chapel and graveyard surviving below ground. Many LIDAR surveys have been commissioned in advance of new roadways across County Monaghan. Unfortunately none of these surveys overlapped with Temple Moyle or Lough Egish. A 1m Photogrammetric Digital Surface Model (DSM) covering a 1km square area covering the subject site was obtained from BlueSky Mapshop Ireland (Figure 18). Analysis of this survey did not reveal any new earthworks or structures associated with the subject site.

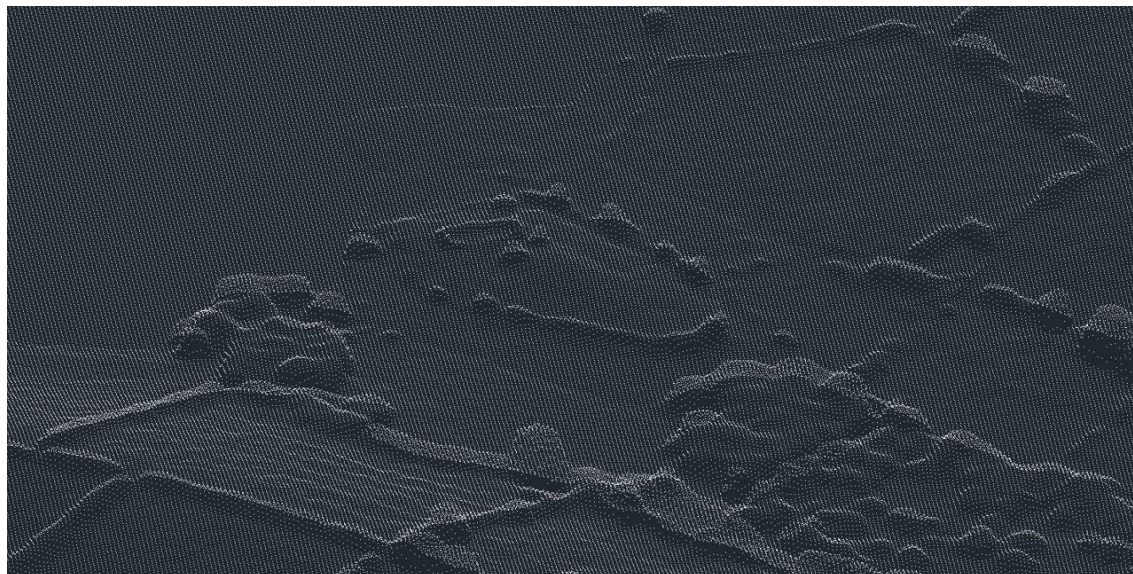


Figure 18: 1m Photogrammic Digital Surface Model (DSM) from BlueSky Mapshop Ireland

4.6 Illustration

Illustrations were created by Sarah Nylund an archaeological illustrator who holds a BSc of Archaeology, Museology & Art History from Umea University, Sweden and an MA in the Archaeology of Art & Architecture from UCD. In Figure 19 the chapel is depicted within its landscape. From this angle (facing NW) it is possible to see how Temple Moyle is situated on a small peninsula of the NE shore of Lough Egish. The islands within the lake are clearly visible in this image. The chapel and graveyard are also located at the narrow land bridge between the mainland and a larger peninsula. This larger peninsula is where the Friars are said to have lived and been hidden during penal times. The well (MO024-039) located c.300m to the south of Temple Moyle still known as ‘Friars Well’ is depicted in the illustration as a small structure within an enclosed space.

The second illustration depicts the chapel and graveyard when in full use (Figure 20). The image is focused on the southern and eastern wall facing north. The chapel is depicted as having a thatched roof with a single bell bellcote in the western gable. Evidence for these features are limited however this interpretation centres on the folklore involving Cromwells troops destroying the bellcote with cannon fire and setting the thatch alight.

The illustration of the chapel door and windows displays a mix of pointed and rounded arches which is consistent with Irish Gothic Architecture. The collapsed window located near the SE corner of the southern wall is seen in this illustration as a narrow opening. Similarly the large window located in the eastern gable wall is depicted as a long narrow, single lancet gothic window with a pointed arch. Both these windows appear wider when viewed in the ruinous structure due to severe collapse along one side of both windows (Plate 1 & Plate 4). There is currently no remaining evidence for the doorway into the chapel. It would have been located in the large area of collapse noted towards the west corner of the southern wall face (Plate 4).



Figure 19: Illustration of Temple Moyle within its landscape, showing Friars Well (on left)



Figure 20: Artist's interpretation of Temple Moyle

5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITE

Temple Moyle is a late medieval single cell masonry building comprising 4 stone walls, with both gable ends remain relatively intact. There are no remains of a bellcote above the west gable however it is likely a small or narrow one would have originally been present originally. The doorway in the southern wall has fully collapsed and all three windows display areas of weakness and collapse surrounding them. The chapel is a good example of a late medieval single cell parish church and is likely to date to the late 14th / early 15th century. This 15th century date aligns with the given date of 1462 when the Franciscan Friars, who were credited with founding the chapel, were recorded as settling in Monaghan.

Temple Moyle is believed to have gained its name from the Irish '*Tempeall Maol*' meaning 'The bald chapel'. This refers to the fact that the presumed thatched roof of the chapel has been missing, presumed burnt since the 17th century. Tradition says that Cromwell's troops set fire to the roof and cannons blew the bell into the lake around 1640. It is worth noting there is no evidence of Cromwell's troops ever reaching this area.

The church which was established and run by the Franciscan Friars served the people of Lattonfasky and the surrounding townlands. It played a key role in both religious practice and general education during the Penal times. The nearby cottage located 300m south of the chapel is said to have been where the Friars lived in hiding during Penal times. The nearby well (MO024-039) is still known as '*Tober na Braher*' – the brothers' well.

The site comprises two recorded monuments; Temple Moyle Chapel (MO024-034001) and its associated graveyard (MO024-034002) listed on the Sites and Monuments Record by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Neither the chapel nor the nearby well are known to be dedicated to a patron saint.

Criteria	Description
Existing Status	Temple Moyle Chapel (MO024-034001) and its associated graveyard (MO024-034002) are Recorded Monuments (RMPs)
Condition/ Preservation	The chapel is in a vulnerable condition. Wall facing has collapsed in many areas exposing wall core and mortar to weathering which will result in further collapse. The overgrown graveyard has overtaken the chapel particularly on the northern side. Landscaping works have temporarily fixed this issue. The Graveyard is heavily overgrown in places; however this growth is not damaging the graveyard.
Documentation	Not applicable
Group Value	The chapel is likely to be one of a number of structures constructed upon the arrival of the Franciscan Friars to Monaghan in 1462.
Rarity	Numerous comparable late medieval chapels have been recorded across Ireland.
Visibility	The chapel and graveyard are located on the top of a low rise at the NE shore of Lough Egish. This area is located in a valley and can be seen from the top of all the surrounding hills.
Vulnerability	The chapel is at risk of further collapse due to weathering and root/plant action. The graveyard is enclosed and known to local farmers, it is still intermittently in use and maintained by the locals. It is in no immediate danger.
Amenity Value	Its location on the edge of Lough Egish, ease of access via a public road and available parking could make it a desirable tourist spot.

Table 1: Assessment table

Temple Moyle and its associated graveyard would have important local and regional significance and moderate national significance due to its links with the arrival of the Franciscans in Monaghan, its history of clandestine worship and education during the Penal times and its surviving gothic architecture. The chapel is currently in a vulnerable condition with weathering of exposed mortar likely to cause further collapse. An understanding of this significance and vulnerability is important so that Lough Egish Community Development CLG in cooperation with Monaghan County Council and the National Monument Service can work together to ensure the chapel is maintained, improved and protected into the future.

6. DEFINING ISSUES AND ASSESSING VULNERABILITIES

6.1 Issues and vulnerability

Temple Moyle is a late medieval chapel in a very vulnerable condition. It comprises four upstanding walls in varying stages of decay. In many areas the facing has fallen away exposing the wall core and its lime, sand and pebble mortar. In many areas collections of pebbles signify the weathering of the mortar (Plate 25). In areas such as the arch of the eastern gable and the NE corner of the western gable which show signs of extreme weakness, further weathering could lead to complete collapse (Plate 31).

The chapel is also at risk from the overgrown graveyard. The northern wall of the chapel was completely obscured by a dense thicket of brambles prior to the landscaping works (Plate 20). In places the brambles had grown through the wall, dislodging mortar and weakening the wall, leading to the collapse of facing stones. These brambles were snipped close to the wall and removed where possible. The bramble thicket surrounding the northern wall of the chapel will regenerate unless it is maintained. In addition to brambles, sloe, ash and sycamore trees were growing close to the chapel. These were also removed during the landscaping works but it is possible the roots could have caused some damage to the foundations of the walls. Again, these must be maintained to prevent further damage.

All three engraved stones mentioned in Section 2.1 are within walls which are at risk of collapse. The long stone with indecipherable wording which is located immediately above the collapsed NW corner of the west gable wall is at the most risk of damage from collapse (Plate 5).

The chapel is of some significance due to its remaining examples of gothic architecture in the window surrounds. In all cases only small sections of the gothic facing or arch remains. The weathering and subsequent erosion of mortar mentioned previously will cause a collapse of the facing stone surrounding the windows without conservation.

For further details on the condition of Temple Moyle Chapel, see the Structural Appraisal Report undertaken by Peter Coyle in January 2022 (Appendix 2).

The graveyard is currently in a stable condition. However localised areas are overgrown with brambles or heather. If left unattended it is possible the graveyard could become over run and inaccessible.

Due to the undisturbed nature of the graveyard it is possible and highly likely that there are some endangered or rare native plants within its limits. These plants may be obscured or choked out by the brambles. There is currently no list of burials within the graveyard. In many places it is already inaccessible and the overgrowth hides the gravestones from families who wish to find the grave of relatives.

6.2 Potential threats

Weathering and water erosion is a major threat to the structural integrity of the chapel walls as a result of mortar exposure. The regrowth of plants surrounding the chapel could lead to destabilisation of the foundations by root action and the loss of mortar and stone facing as a result of brambles growing through the wall. The graveyard is relatively stable and in good condition but as mentioned previously it is possible rare native plants could be at risk if landscaping works were undertaken without informed guidance from a specialist. Further burial within the graveyard could lead to dislodgement or damage to the older cairn burials.

6.3 Research and knowledge gaps

Further research is required regarding the arrival of the Franciscans to Monaghan and their links with Lough Egish. There is likely a lot to uncover regarding their work in both education and worship during the Penal times. It would also be of interest to conduct in-depth research into the movements of Cromwell's troops in the Cavan/ Monaghan/ Fermanagh region to investigate how the folklore involving the troops firing on Temple Moyle came to be.

There are three decorated/engraved stones within the chapel walls. A detailed laser survey of these stones would be worthwhile. In particular it would be of great interest to attempt to decipher the inscribed stone in the NW corner of the structure. It may also be of benefit to conduct a detailed survey of the stone facing of the chapel in order to discover further decorated stones.

A detailed investigation of the Chapel and Graveyard would be incomplete without including a survey and study of the nearby 'Friars Well' (MO024-039) and the associated farmhouse. The friars were rumoured to have lived in that house or at least an earlier incarnation of it on the same land.

It would be of great interest to conduct a geophysical survey of the surrounding landscape. It is possible there are some outlying burials or unknown structures associated with the chapel and graveyard.

The graveyard is overgrown and many headstones are obscured with brambles and long grass. Other graves stones are weathered to the point that they are illegible. It would be worthwhile to conduct a detailed survey of the graveyard, locating each headstone with GPS, numbering and describing them and providing a transcript of the headstone dedication. It would be of great benefit to make this survey publically available to anyone who wishes to know where their ancestors are interred.

Due to the undisturbed nature of the graveyard it would be necessary to undertake a detailed survey of the plants and fungi within the graveyard limits. It is possible there are rare and/ or endangered plants and fungi within the graveyard.

6.4 Tourism, Interpretation and site access

The site is currently accessible via a public laneway. The graveyard entrance gate is not locked. The Conservation Plan has noted the vulnerability of the chapel. Increased tourism would be a risk to the ruin due to wear from foot traffic, climbing across the walls and/ removing stones. In its current condition the chapel poses a risk to the public due to the potential for collapse on the NW corner and east gable.

Currently, there is no interpretive sign or information plate nor is there any information on the burials within the graveyard. An interpretive sign would be of great interest to visitors. In order to protect the graveyard it would have to be erected outside of the graveyard gates. It would also be of benefit to have a warning sign and possibly some temporary fencing to keep people away from the more precarious walls of the church.

7. CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The primary aim of any conservation plan is that what is significant and valuable in a site or place survives into the future as well as for the use and enjoyment of people in the present. A balance must be achieved between conservation, management, interpretation and public expectations. The policy suggestions made in this document are to provide a framework for future works to be undertaken on Temple Moyle chapel and graveyard.

The Conservation Plan in consultation with the Structural Appraisal Report (Appendix 2) recommends the following works for Temple Moyle Chapel:

Immediate Essential Work

- Place warning signs and temporary fencing around the west gable wall in the interest of public safety
- The large window to the east facing gable wall should be propped to prevent total failure of the window head.
- The stone loss to the north east corner of the chapel should be secured by propping or stone replacement.
- The vertical opening (narrow collapsed window) to the right-hand side of the south facing wall should be propped and secured.
- The stone to the south west and north west corners should be secured and propped and stop any further deterioration to the stone structure.

-
- Any vegetation to the top and sides of the walls should be removed and the tops of the walls protected. The vegetation removal will be required to be an ongoing process.
 - Any areas of mortar loss to walls where there is a large amount of stone loss should be replaced.
 - Any loose stone to the tops of walls and within wall faces should be removed.
 - Continued maintenance of the grass, brambles and shrubs surrounding the ruin
 - Ensure that all necessary consents are obtained before starting work i.e. under the National Monuments Acts, anyone wishing to carry out work on a site or monument listed in the Recorded Monuments and Places is obliged to notify the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and may not carry out works within two months of the date of notification, without approval from the National Monuments Service.

Medium Term Repair Work

- The stone loss to each of the wall faces should be monitored to ensure there is no further deterioration to the stone face.

Longer Term Repair Works and Maintenance

- Replacement of the stone mortar and repointing of the wall joints.
- The failure of the large openings to the south facing wall should be addressed, possibly through the reinstatement of the wall structure.
- Repair to openings small non-structural openings
- Detailed survey (3D assessment) and interpretation of decorated/ engraved stones and an in-depth assessment of all facing stones to ensure there are no additional decorated stones.

The Conservation Plan recommendations regarding Temple Moyle Graveyard are as follows:

Immediate Essential Work

- Use strimmer to cut a path through the graveyard. Weed killer is strictly prohibited. A path will encourage tourists to stay within the area provided meaning they are less likely to traverse the uneven terrain putting both the monument and themselves at risk.
- Detailed survey by a relevant specialist of plants and fungi within the confines of the graveyard. This should be undertaken prior to any landscaping works beyond the chapel.
- Ensure that all necessary consents are obtained before starting work i.e. under the National Monuments Acts, anyone wishing to carry out work on a site or monument listed in the Recorded Monuments and Places is obliged to notify the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and may not carry out works within two months of the date of notification, without approval from the National Monuments Service

Medium Term Work

- Professional landscaping of site, cutting back grass, brambles, heather and trees in accordance with the recommendations of the botany specialists.

Longer Term Works and Maintenance

- Prepare detailed assessment of graveyard headstones with GPS locations and transcribed inscriptions etc. It would be of great benefit to make this survey publically available to anyone who wishes to know where their ancestors are interred.
- Employ goats bi-annually to maintain the landscaping work without damaging the graveyard, only if in accordance with the recommendations of the botany specialist.

The Conservation Plan recommendations regarding Temple Moyle Chapel and graveyard in general are as follows:

- **Immediate Recommendation:** Access to Temple Moyle chapel and graveyard remains as it currently stands with the gates perpetually unlocked.
- **Medium Term Recommendation:** Make conservation report readily available
- **Long Term Recommendation:** Provide an information board complete with illustrations, history and folklore of the site. This must be located outside the walls of the graveyard, near the gate in order to protect any below ground archaeology within the graveyard from damage (Plate 51).



Plate 51: Example of an acceptable information board

8. CONCLUSION

Temple Moyle Church (MO024-034001) and its associated graveyard (MO024-034002) are located in the townland of Lattonfasky, County Monaghan (ITM 678646, 814020) on a peninsula situated on the north-eastern shore of Lough Egish. The church is located in the NW corner of the oval graveyard. It comprised 4 upstanding walls in varying stages of decay.

The ruin is a single celled late medieval chapel of gothic construction. The architectural design and historical records date the current chapel to the 15th century. It was most likely constructed by the Franciscan Friars upon their arrival to Monaghan in 1452. The interior of the chapel walls display the remains of an ambry recess in the lower southern corner of the east gable wall, the beam-hole for rood screen which separated the nave from the chancel in the southern wall and sockets for a raised gallery in the western end. It currently has the remains of three windows, a large one in the eastern wall and two smaller ones in the south and western walls. The remains of the doorway are completely collapsed.

The chapel has strong links with the Franciscan Friars and was a safe place for them to reside at times of religious persecution. The ruins of the chapel were used during Penal times as both a place of worship and a place of education. When the friars were driven from their monastery in Monaghan they dispersed throughout the Diocese of Clogher. Many resided in a small cottage located c.300m to the SE of the graveyard and their presence is recorded in the place name of the nearby well as 'The Friars Well'.

The graveyard is now an untouched oasis within a pastoral landscape and as such will provide a safe haven for many plants and animals. This must be considered when undergoing any future work within its limits.

The work required to stabilise the chapel would be extensive and must be guided by architectural and conservation specialists with permission from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Unfortunately, stabilisation works are necessary as both the western and eastern gable walls have collapsed significantly to the point that they are severely weakened. While it is desirable to attract tourists to this monument in the long term, it is not advised to encourage these visits in the short term until safety measures are put in place to protect the public in case of wall collapse.

Temple Moyle church and graveyard are deemed to have important local and regional significance and moderate national significance when the ruin is considered in conjunction with its gothic architecture and links to local and national history.

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Lough Egish Community Development C.L.G.



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Signed



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Licensed Archaeologist
31st January 2022

APPENDIX 1: SMR/RMP RECORD IN LOCALITY

SMR No.	Class	Townland	ITM	Distance
MO024-025----	Cairn - unclassified	LATTONFASKY	678603, 815087	c.1.5km N
Located on a terrace just below the crest of a W-facing slope. It is depicted on the 1834 edition of the OS 6-inch map where it is described in gothic lettering as a 'Cromlech' and it is described as 'Labbyfirmore' – the bed of the big men – on the 1907 edition. This is a circular grass and furze-covered cairn (diam. c. 20m) with evidence of three cists. One cist consists of a large capstone supported on two long side-stones and one end-stone. A second cist to the SW is roofed by a single large roof-stone supported by six slender upright stones. The third cist is only visible as portion of what might be a roof-stone buried in the cairn just S of an E-W field bank that overlies the N part of the cairn.				
MO024-025001-	Cist	LATTONFASKY	678608, 815087	c.1.5km N
Located on a terrace just below the crest of a W-facing slope. The cairn (MO024-025----) has evidence of three cists. One cist consists of a large capstone supported on two long side-stones and one end-stone.				
MO024-025002-	Cist	LATTONFASKY	678598, 815084	c.1.5km N
Located on a terrace just below the crest of a W-facing slope. The cairn (MO024-025----) has evidence of three cists. This cist at the SW edge of the cairn is roofed by a single large roof-stone supported by six slender upright stones.				
MO024-025003-	Cist	LATTONFASKY	678602, 815094	c.1.5km N
Located on a terrace just below the crest of a W-facing slope. The cairn (MO024-025----) has evidence of three cists. This cist is only visible as portion of what might be a large roof-stone buried in the cairn just S of an E-W field bank that overlies the N part of the cairn.				
MO024-027----	Megalithic tomb - court tomb	LAGAN	679848, 815134	c.1.5km NE
Located just off the crest of a S-facing slope. A roughly trapezoidal grass-covered mound (L 31m; Wth 11.5m) with some scrub is aligned NE-SW. A series of displaced flags at the NE end may represent the shallow court. Behind these are two subsidiary chambers opening to the NW and another opening to the SE. There are a number of set stones which appear to represent other chambers further SW, although no main gallery is evident. The surviving chambers are comparable to court-tomb subsidiary chambers				
MO024-033----	Ringfort - rath	TULLYNAMALRA	677943, 812614	c.2.4kmSW
Situated on top of a drumlin. This is a D-shaped grass and scrub-covered area (dims c. 35m NW-SE; c. 30m NE-SW) defined by a slight bank (at N: Wth of top 1.2m; ext. H 0.9m) separated by a berm (at N: Wth 3.7m) from a second slight bank (at N: Wth of top 1.6m; ext. H 1.2m), outside of which is a second berm (at N: Wth 3.3m) defined by a scarp (H 2m). These features survive in arcs W-N-E but the interior is truncated by a NE-SW field bank at SE and by a NW-SW field bank at SW. The original entrance is not identified.				
MO024-035----	Crannog	TULLYNANEGISH	679040, 813257	c.0.6km SW
Lough Egish is a large sub rectangular lake (dims c. 2km NW-SE; c. 700m NE-SW) with a large promontory occupying much of the NE side, and it has numerous small islands and bays. This crannog is situated in an area of open water c. 150m from the SW shore. It is depicted as a small island on the 1834 edition of the OS 6-inch map and it is described as 'Rock Island' on the 1907 edition. This is a circular cairn (diam. 15m; H c. 2m) incorporating natural rock outcrop but with small stones and boulders. No wooded structures or stone kerbing was noted.				
MO024-036----	Ringfort - rath	CORNACARROW	679735, 812751	c.1.5kmSW
Situated on top of a drumlin overlooking the S shore of Lough Egish which is c. 200m to the N. This is a subcircular grass and scrub-covered area (dims 40m E-W; 35m N-S) defined by a grass-covered earthen bank and an outer fosse. There is a gap (Wth of base 1.6m) at W but the original entrance (Wth of base 2.5m) is at ESE. Outside the fosse at SW is a large cist (MO024-036----)				
MO024-037----	Cairn - unclassified	CORNACARROW	679719, 812724	c.1.5km S
Located on top of a drumlin and immediately outside the fosse of rath (MO024-036----) at SW. A grass-covered sub rectangular cairn (dims 15.7m NW-SE; 9.5m NE-SW; H 0.85-1m) is truncated by the bank of rath (MO024-036----) at E and by a N-S field bank at W. A large cist protrudes from the cairn at N. The cist (dims 1.5m N-S; 0.5m E-W; H 0.4m) has long side-stones at E (dims 1.55m x 0.2m; H 0.4m) and W (dims 1.15m; x 0.2m; H 0.4m) and an end-stone at S but it is open at N. It is covered by a large roof-stone (dims 1.3m NE-SW; 1.2m NW-SE; T 0.45-0.5m).				
MO024-037001-	Cist	CORNACARROW	679712, 812732	c.1.5kmS
Located on top of a drumlin and immediately outside the fosse of rath (MO024-036----) at SW. A large cist protrudes from the cairn (MO024-027----) at N. The cist (dims 1.5m N-S; 0.5m E-W; H 0.4m) has long side-stones at E (dims 1.55m x 0.2m; H 0.4m) and W (dims 1.15m; x 0.2m; H 0.4m) and an end-stone at S but it is open at N. It is covered by a large roof-stone (dims 1.3m NE-SW; 1.2m NW-SE; T 0.45-0.5m)				
MO024-039----	Well	LATTONFASKY	678731, 813700	c.0.3kmS
Situated on a gentle SE-facing slope of a peninsula on the NE side of Lough Egish. When the Franciscans finally left their friary in Monaghan town (MO009-060002-) c. 1690 they probably maintained a presence in the county, although				

SMR No.	Class	Townland	ITM	Distance
<p>evidence of them is elusive. A report on the state of Popery in 1731 states categorically there were no Franciscans in Monaghan, although they were represented at Chapters of the Order held in Dublin in 1717 and 1729 (McKenna 1922, vol. 1, 13-14). In 1775 a bequest was made to the Franciscans of Lough Egish, and a farmhouse at Lattonfasky was called the Friars Garden while the well was known as the Brothers' Well (ibid. 1, 369. McKenna (ibid. 1, 356) further records that 'within living memory' the eccentric ex-friar named Martin, disowned by his Order and the Bishop, led a congregation at Lattonfasky, so a Franciscan presence was maintained at Lough Egish into the late nineteenth century.</p> <p>The well is depicted only on the 1907 edition of the OS 6-inch map where it is described in gothic lettering as 'Tober na Braher' – the brothers' well. The field in which it is situated is attached to a small farmstead that is the only dwelling on the peninsula depicted on the 1834 edition of the OS 6-inch map and was probably occupied by friars in the eighteenth century. The well is an oval structure (dims 1.5m x 0.9m) defined by a masonry wall (H 1.3m) and roofed with four lintels. There is an opening (Wth 0.5m) at W, but it is not a holy well.</p>				
MO024-040----	Ringfort - rath	REDUFF	677397, 812548	c.2.4kmSW
<p>Located on the NW-facing spine of a small NW-SE drumlin ridge, which rises like a rib through the interior of the monument. This is a subcircular grass and scrub-covered area (dims 39m NW-SE; 33m NE-SW) that slopes down steeply to the NW (H 4.3m) defined by an earthen bank (Wth of base 10m; int. H 1.8m; ext. H 1.5m) SE-S that morphs into a scarp (at NW: Wth 1.5m; H 1.8m) with some bushes elsewhere. There is no visible fosse, although a berm (Wth 2.4m) separates the bank from a NE-SW field wall at SE. The original entrance is not identified.</p>				
MO025-014----	Ringfort - Cashel	CARGAGHDOO	680578, 815268	c.2.5kmNE
<p>Situated towards the N edge of an undulating plateau with rock outcrop and stone field walls. An oval embanked enclosure is depicted on the 1834 edition of the OS 6-inch map where it is described in gothic lettering as a 'fort', and it is depicted as an oval field on the 1907 edition. This is an oval grass-covered area (dims 51m E-W; 36.5m N-S) defined by a drystone wall, incorporating an older wall (Wth of base 2.3m; Wth of top 0.9m; int. H 0.7m; ext. H 1.3m) at NE. The original entrance is not identified.</p>				
MO027-011----	Ringfort - rath	CORNACARROW	679271, 812193	c.2.3kmSE
<p>Situated on the summit of a NW-SE spur. This is a D-shaped and domed (H 2m at NE; 4m at SW) grass-covered area (dims 52m NE-SW; 47m NW-SE) defined by a scarp (at NE: Wth 3.4m; H 2.1m; at NW: Wth 1m; H 1.2m) with some bushes. There is no visible fosse or entrance, but the perimeter is slightly truncated by a NNE-SSW field bank at NW (L c. 30m), and an NW-SE field bank bisects the interior.</p>				
MO027-012----	Ringfort - rath	CORNACARROW	679392, 812059	c.2.3kmSE
<p>Located at the SE tip of a NW-SE spur. This is a circular slightly domed (H c. 1m) and grass-covered area (diam. 29.7m NNW-SSE; 27.5m NE-SW) defined by an earthen bank (Wth 3.6-5m; int. H 0.1m; ext. H 1.2-1.8m) covered with furze and some bushes that is incorporated into a field bank SW-NW-NNE. There is no visible fosse and the original entrance is not identified.</p>				

APPENDIX 2: STRUCTURAL APPRAISAL REPORT BY PETER COYLE

The logo for Coyle Civil & Structural features the word "Coyle" in a stylized, bold font. The letter "C" is composed of multiple overlapping concentric circles in shades of green, grey, and black. The "o" is a solid teal circle. The "y" is black with a teal triangle at its base. The "l" is a solid black vertical bar. The "e" is black with a teal triangle at its base. Below "Coyle" is the text "CIVIL & STRUCTURAL" in a teal, sans-serif, all-caps font.

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STRUCTURAL APPRAISAL REPORT

at

Temple Moyle Church, Lattonfaskey, Loughmourne, Co Monaghan

Revision	Description	Made	Approved	Date
0	Final	PC	PC	Jan 2022

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1. Brief

Instructions were received from Archer Heritage Planning to carry out a Structural Condition Survey of the remains of Temple Moyle Chapel, a stone built church located on the shores of Lough Egish in mid Monaghan, and to report on its condition and any matters of concern. The location of the building remains can be seen in the below aerial view.



Fig 1 Building Location

The purpose of the inspection was to carry out a visual survey and to comment on the condition of the main structure of the church which may require attention as part of any proposed works.

This report provides an opinion on any structural issues with the existing structure. The inspection was carried out by Peter Coyle CEng BEng Chartered Engineer of Coyle Civil & Structural on the 17th January 2022. The weather was cold and dry with visibility reasonable.

The report aims to

- Record and summarise any significant defects detected during the survey
- Describe the severity of the defects and provide an opinion on the urgency of repairs
- Comment on the likely causes of the defects

2. Building Description

Temple Moyle Chapel (MO024-034001) is a single storey structure dating from circa the early 1600's. The building is constructed of a random stone construction with an infill dry mortar mix. Based on the layout on the existing walls it is assumed that the chapel roof was formed by a double pitched roof. What remains of the main structural would appear to be stable however as noted later in this report there is significant works required to return the structure to its original condition.

Access to the building would appear to have been from the south facing elevation which was provided with a number of openings. The building would appear to have consisted of a single open plan area with no internal walls.

The chapel is situated on an area of raised ground with access provided via the main public regional road, the R181 and via a private unsurfaced access road.

3. Scope of Report

The inspection and report relate to the structural condition of the building and its fabric at the time of inspection. The survey was visual only and cannot take account of any items that are concealed, covered or not readily assessable for visual inspection.

Internal and external drainage and piped services have not been inspected and no opinion can be given in relation to these concealed elements.

It was not possible to inspect woodwork, concrete, or other parts of the structure which were covered or inaccessible, and it is not therefore possible to accept any liability in respect of defects that may be present or subsequently become apparent arising from timber diseases of any description including vermin, insects, wet or dry rot, defects in constituents of concrete, the extent of bearings, ties, fixings or any defect of a similar nature. We will advise if evidence suggests that opening up of concealed parts for further investigation is required.

No testing of materials of construction were carried out, and no opinion is given in relation to the adequacy of material of construction save where visible evidence suggest ongoing for potential future problems due defects in these materials.

No excavations or tests were carried out to determine the depth, nature or condition of the foundations or the adequacy of the bearing stratum in which they are founded.

4. Observations

The following section describes defects recorded during the inspection with an associated photographic record.

4.1 Main Building Condition

4.1.1 East Facing Wall

The east wall of the church faces towards the main entrance to the site with access provided from a private access road, the east wall forms a gable end wall to the church. There is a large window opening located to the gable face which has deteriorated through centuries of rain damage and erosion, the window opening is currently unstable.



The loss of the shape of the gable window can be seen from the above photo and is particularly evident to the north side of the window outline.



The north east corner to the church has lost a significant amount of stone which has undermined the main structural wall.

4.1.2 South Facing Wall

The south facing wall to the church appears to have provided the main access into the church and as such contained a number of large window and door openings. The location of the openings has resulted in failure of a number of sections of the wall and their collapse.



The vertical opening to the right-hand side of the wall has become undermined to the bottom of the window opening due to erosion. The window opening has become widened to its base and is unstable. The stone lintel to the window has become lost and has resulted in erosion and loss of the stone head to the opening.

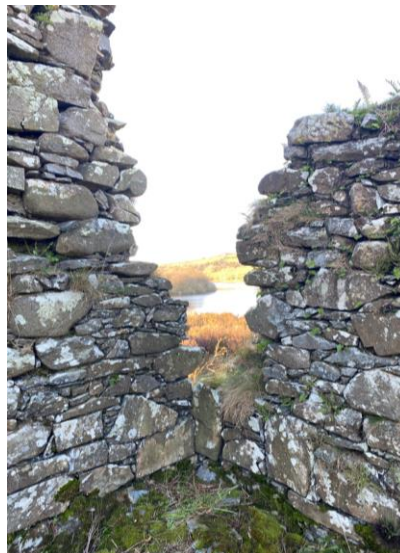


Large sections of the outer structural stone skin to the south wall have become removed for the wall and resulted in a significant weakening of the wall.



4.1.3 West Facing Wall

There is a section of the internal face of the west facing wall that has been the subject to a large amount of erosion resulting in the loss of a large section of the inner stone skin to the wall.



The north west corner to the church has experienced significant loss of structural stone, most likely due to erosion and weathering. The loss of the stone has resulted in the failure of the corner and the loss of the corner structure.

4.1.4 North Facing Wall

The north facing wall can be seen to have lost a number of individual stones which have affected the wall structure.



The foundations to the north facing wall have become exposed in a number of locations which leaves the foundations open to and susceptible to deterioration.



4.1.5 Mortar Loss

There are a number of large areas of mortar loss to the chapel walls which is most obvious to the south and west facing elevations. The loss of mortar has resulted in the loss of stone to sections of the walls.

4.1.6 Vegetation Growth

Vegetation growth is evident to all walls of the church. Moss growth is evident to both gable walls however the growth is mainly restricted to the upper levels. It would appear as though vegetation removal was carried out in the recent past and that the growth evident to the walls is recent.

5. Recommendations

The recommendations in this report are for the purpose of preparing a strategy to progress the conservation plan for Temple Moyle Chapel.

The legislation regarding the care and repair of this protected structure and National Monument must be respected in any works considered to this structure with all repair works following best conservation practise.

5.1.1 Immediate Essential Work

- The large window to the east facing gable wall should be propped to prevent total failure of the window head.
- The stone loss to the north east corner of the chapel should be secured by propping or stone replacement.
- The vertical opening to the right-hand side of the south facing wall should be propped and secured.
- The stone to the south west and north west corners should be secured and propped and stop any further deterioration to the stone structure.
- Any vegetation to the top and sides of the walls should be removed and the tops of the walls protected. The vegetation removal will be required to be an ongoing process.
- Any areas of mortar loss to walls where there is a large amount of stone loss should be replaced.
- Any loose stone to the tops of walls and within wall faces should be removed.

5.1.2 Medium Term Repair Work

- The stone loss to each of the wall faces should be monitored to ensure there is no further deterioration to the stone face.

5.1.3 Longer Term Repair Works and Maintenance

- Replacement of the stone mortar and repointing of the wall joints.
- The failure of the large openings to the south facing wall should be addressed, possibly through the reinstatement of the wall structure.
- Repair to openings small non structural openings

Prepared by:



Peter Coyle
CEng BEng Chartered Engineer

END REPORT

