

**N2 Monaghan Town to Emyvale, County Monaghan
Proposed Pavement and Minor Improvement Scheme**

**Coolkill East – Corracrin,
Part 8 Application, July 2011**

Appendix 6: Archaeology & Heritage Reports

Contents:

Report by Niall Roycroft, Archaeologist, NRA

Heritage Report, Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer, Monaghan County Council

TIRNANEILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MULLABRACK SCOTT, CO MONAGHAN

Report on site visit 28th January 2011

Niall Roycroft

The church is not a recorded monument, but the NIAH survey (not available on the web) and Record of Protected Structures (County Development Plan) should be consulted prior to any decision being made regarding demolition. Consultation with Shirley Clerkin (Monaghan Heritage Officer) will also be very helpful.

Should the church require demolition, then a full architectural survey will be required by a qualified person. This will involve some degree of vegetation and site clearance with a thorough health and safety plan.

Ideally, from a [local sensitivity point of view](#), it would not have to be demolished.

Description:

Single storey double gable ended stone built mid-late 19th century church not shown on OS 1835 survey but built by the 25 inch survey of c.1913. No known cemetery attached and none indicated from site visit. One of the last people to be baptised in the church was around 40 years ago, c.1970 (Seamus Grogan pers comm.). Roof deliberately removed c.1995.

Church is oriented roughly north-south and could form one of the Presbyterian 'meeting houses' known in the area (also Clontibret and Ballybay). Located on NE side of Tirnaneill Cross Roads, opposite a (now demolished) school in townland of Mullabrack (Scott).

Site is entered through a gate marked with two square plan obelisk type gate jambs, now abutted by modern concrete fencing. The present widened N2 lies directly to the west.

Church is built of fine ashlar blocks covered in a mortar render and there is an OS bench mark on the north-west corner. There are three openings in the wall facing W to the N2 which originally formed three slender, pointed arch topped 'windows'. A cornice of a projecting line of stone is all the decoration noted. Some nice cut stone at quoins and at the base of the gables-gutter supports.

The 1913 plan shows the original church entrance was on the south-west corner door. This door is now blocked and converted to a window. The central window (opposite the entrance gate) is now completely blocked. The northern 'window' is now converted to the main door with a stone sill. The door has been removed and is lying adjacent. This entrance lead to an inner porch and a further door leading into the church proper.

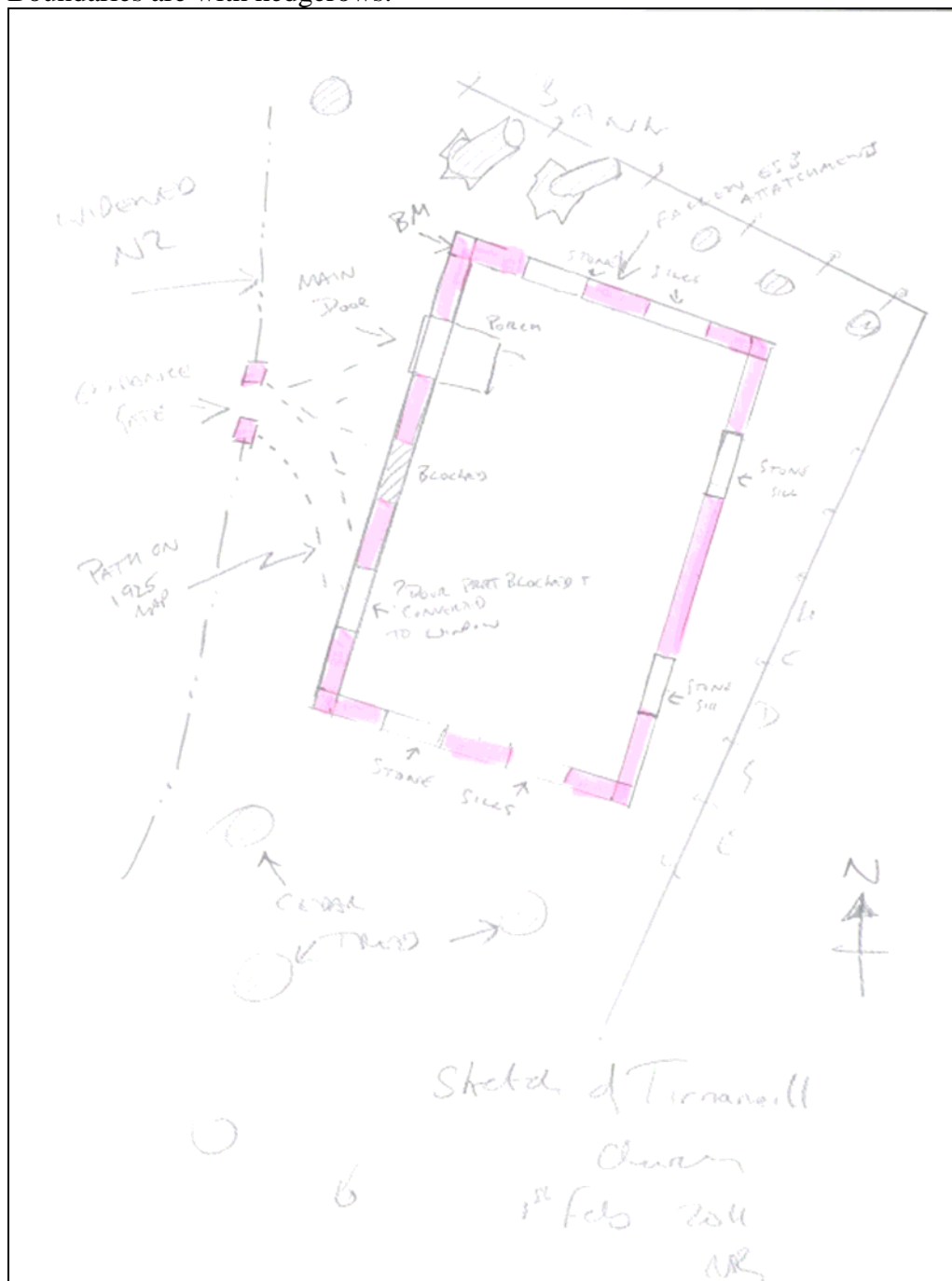
Each gable end has two pointed arch and wooden centre windows over stone sills.

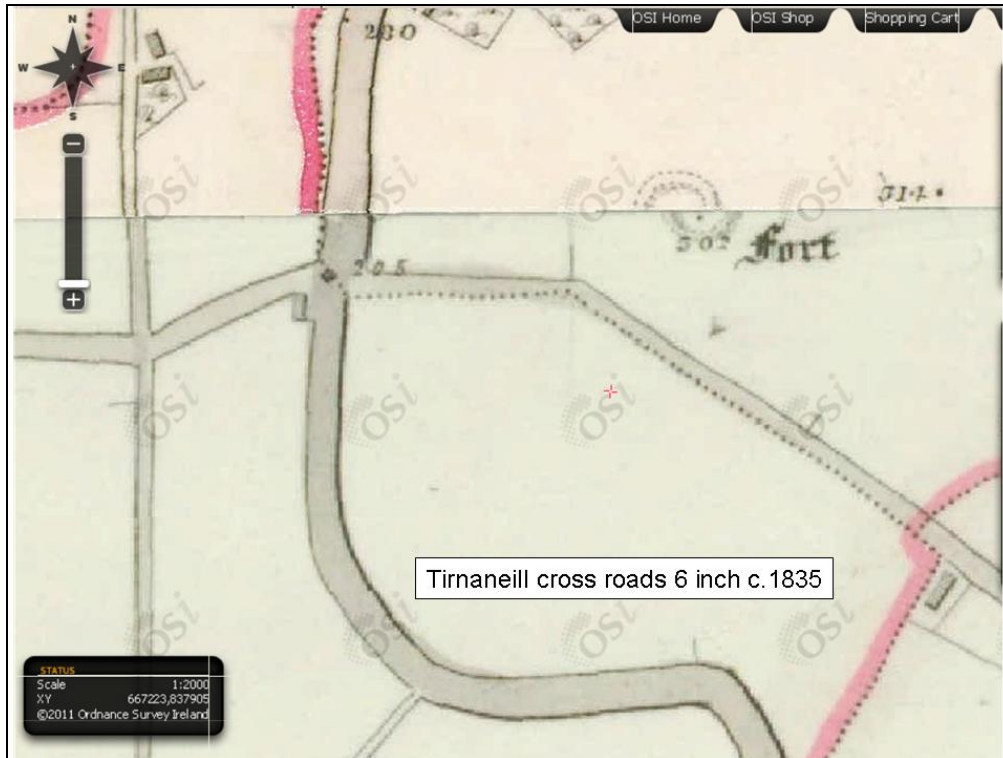
The eastern wall has two window openings (over stone sills) which do not align with the windows of the western wall.

The original ceiling was flat, held by joists running along the long axis of the church. Above this there was a triangular attic space and a pitched slate roof. Ceiling collapsed and roof removed c. 1995 (anecdotal).

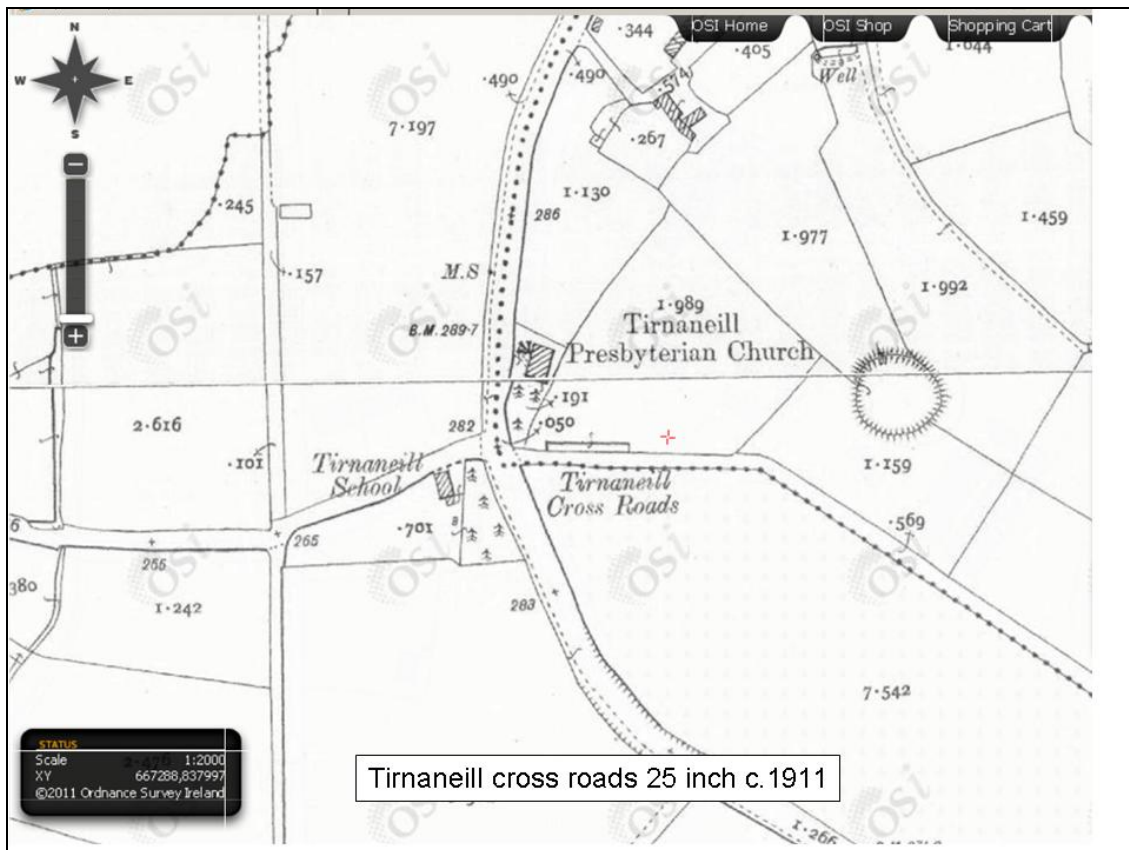
Rainwater gutter is partly surviving on eastern wall with a cast iron down pipe to the south.

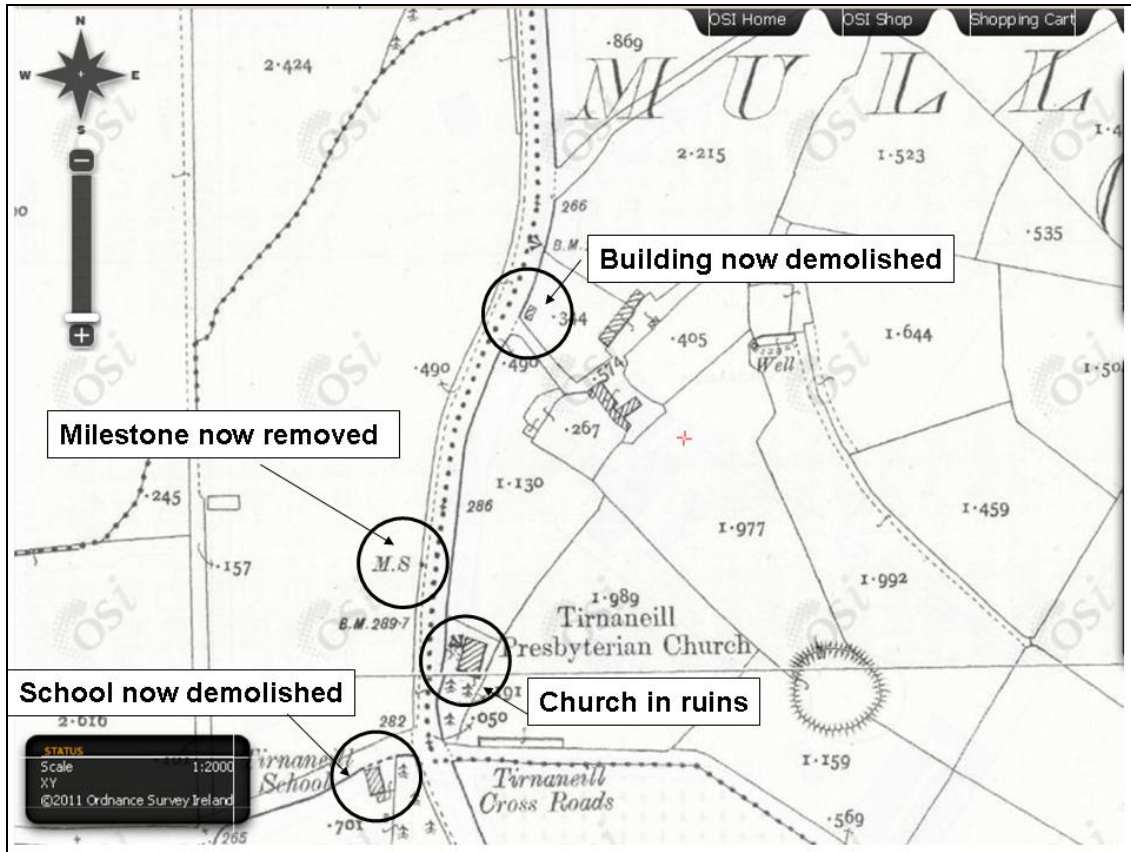
Associated planting appears to consist entirely of mature cedars, some of which have been cut or fallen. Some laurel on west side. Clear attempt to have evergreen foliage surrounding the church. The church site is terraced in that it is at a slightly higher level than the field to the east and slightly lower than the field to the north. Boundaries are with hedgerows.





1835 Survey of Tirraneill cross roads





Church from SE



Widened N2 looking N (Church on right)



Church from N2



Gate to Church from N2



Gate from Church looking W

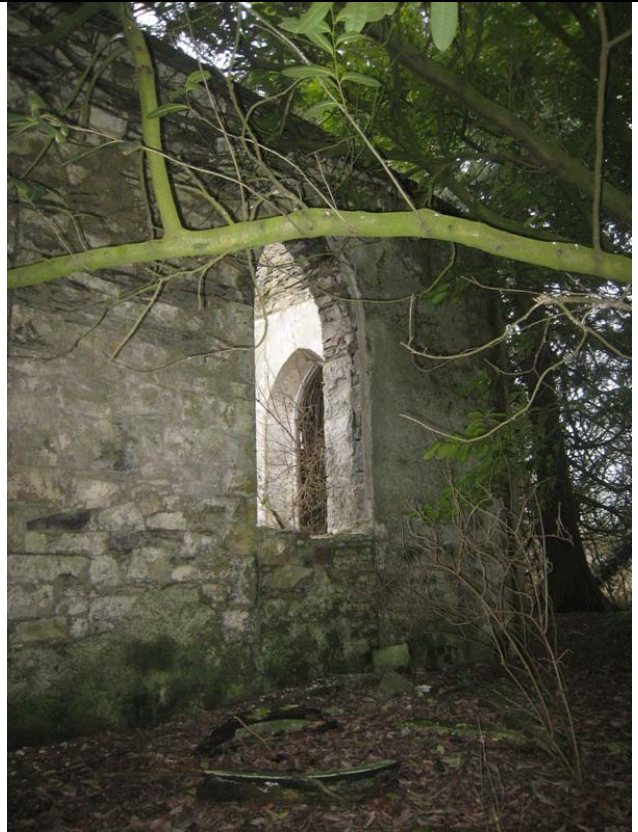


Central blocked window on W side



NW

corner and main door



Door converted to window on SW corner



Church from SW (1)



Church from SW (2)



Window in S gable wall



Interior of S gable wall



Interior from S



Interior N gable wall



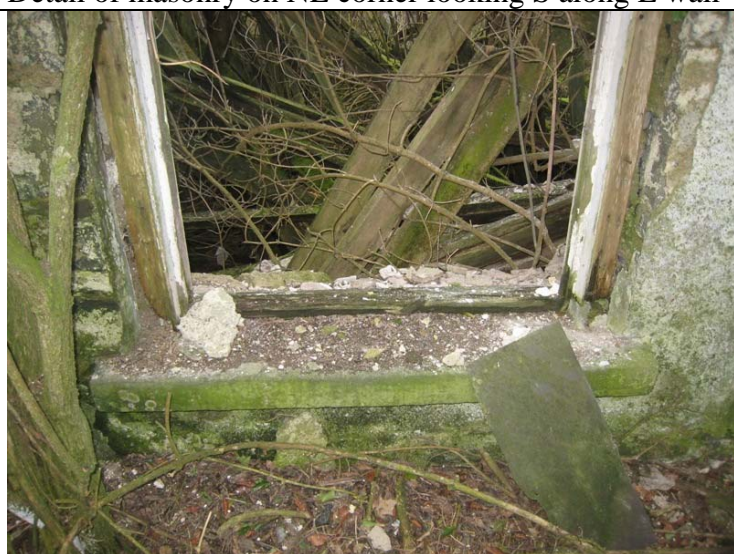
Internal porch



Detail of masonry on NE corner looking S along E wall

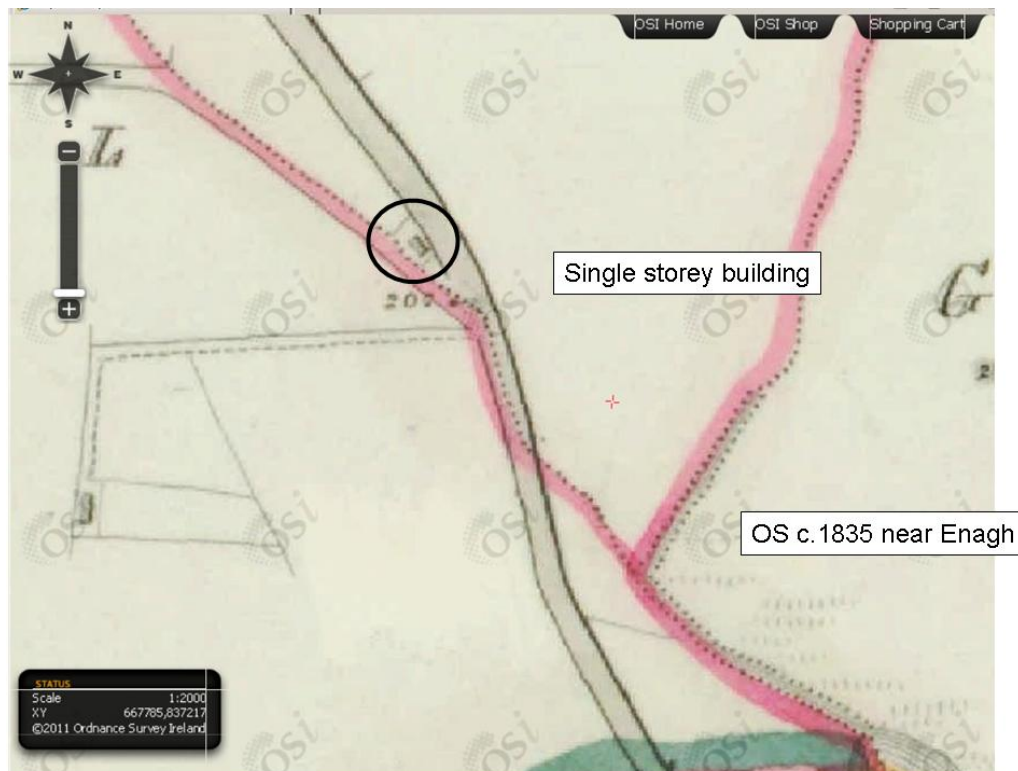


Detail of main door, door stone sill and masonry

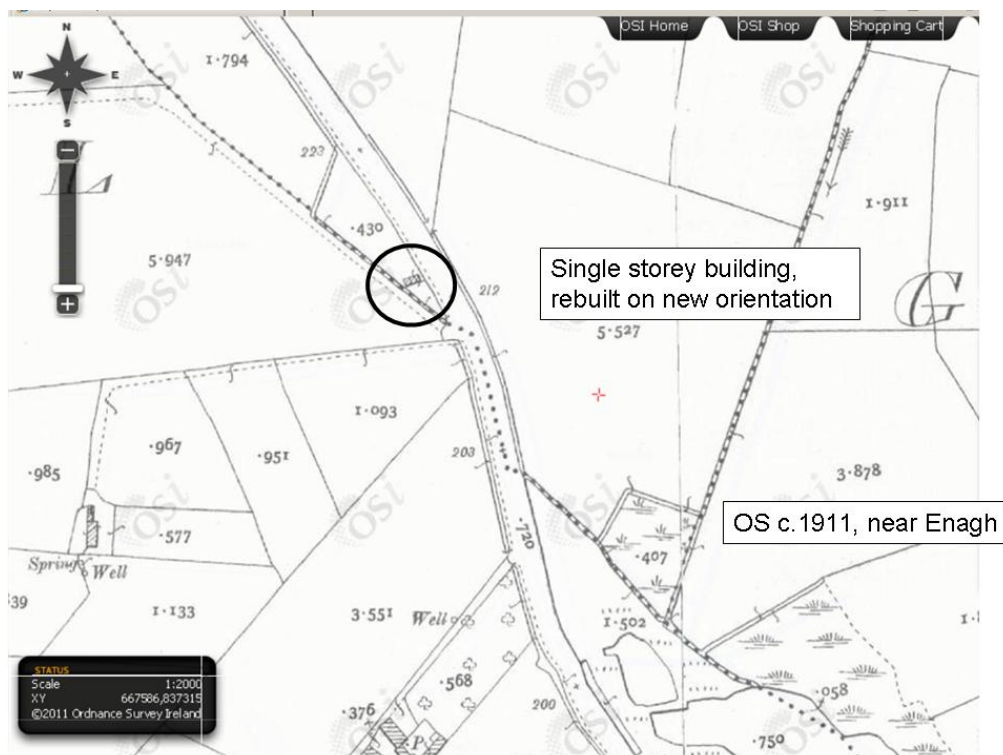


Detail of stone window sill and wooden frame

Building at Ch1775 – not marked on OS



Building at Ch1775 on 1835 survey, oriented north-south



Present building on Ch1775 oriented E-W



Photo of building at Ch1775. This building will require a survey if it is due to be demolished.

Monaghan County Council Heritage Office

Advice to Monaghan County Council roads section in relation to N2 realignment, Monaghan – Emyvale

02.02.11

Development proposal

The Roads Section met with the Heritage Officer on the 21.01.11 in relation to this proposal. The MCC Roads Section intends to realign the N2, north of Monaghan town to Emyvale, approximately 8km. This will involve the removal of a number of bends through the realignment of the existing carriageway, and other adjustments.

PART ONE – Hedges and mammals.

Hedges

Hedges are an important habitat in their own right, but also are important for shelter, habitat connectivity, landscape character and as nesting and feeding for fauna, including bats and birds.

It is considered that at least 8km of hedgerow will be removed as a result of the development, if the realignment proceeds. The loss of this habitat will have negative environmental consequences unless mitigation is properly planned from the outset.

Monaghan County Council Heritage Office commissioned a hedgerow survey of the county in 2010. A total of 35 shrub and tree species were recorded in the sampled hedges. Hawthorn (whitethorn) is found in 95% of hedges. 72% of hedges were comprised solely of native species. Ash is the most common tree species, occurring in 66% of hedges in tree form. The results show that townland boundary hedges and hedges which join areas of native woodland are more species rich than other hedges surveyed.

The roads section must therefore ensure that these impacts are minimised and commission an ecologist familiar with hedge survey methodology to do the following:

- Conduct a habitat and species survey of the existing hedges in the Spring/Summer, and map and photograph those sections which are to be removed. The survey should include hedge structure and the identification of banks, ditches etc. The hedges should be mapped and measures put in place to ensure habitat connectivity is maintained and where possible enhanced.
- Identify the hedge sections which are of suitable quality / health for translocation and put in place a best practice plan to undertake the necessary works. Guidance for translocation works are available from Roscommon County Council, and the hedge Laying Association in the UK. These documents will be forwarded by email.

- Identify sections where translocation is not possible and are instead to be newly planted with native species of local provenance, based on existing species composition. It is important that the species selection be site specific and reflect local conditions as this will result in greater establishment success and is better for biodiversity. Draw up hedge planting schedule for each section.
- The plan should provide information for scheduling works to ensure that work is undertaken outside the nesting season, in accordance with the Wildlife Act. It is estimated that about 55 bird species use hedges in Ireland.
- A hedge maintenance plan should be implemented over a number of years to ensure the success of the mitigation measures.

Mammals

Hedges are important refuges for fauna and many important species use them for roosting and feeding. The identification of mammal species using the areas to be impacted should be undertaken and their distribution and use patterns mapped by a competent ecologist.

Many mammals are protected in Ireland, and the planning authority has to have regard to their presence. Badgers, otters (close to rivers), bats, pine martens, red squirrels would be key species but other smaller mammal species such as hedgehogs should also be targeted for survey considering the extent of hedge removal proposed.

Bats

Bats should be a particular target species for a survey and the aim should be to avoid or minimise potential impact of the proposed development on their breeding and resting places.

A Bat Survey should be undertaken by a bat ecologist during the Summer months when they are most active, in accordance with accepted best practice. The surveyor should provide advice in relation to potential impacts on bat species and necessary mitigation measures.

Bat Mitigation Guidelines were published by the DEHLG in 2006 and are available online. The NRA has guidelines for bats in relation to national roads. www.nra.ie The Heritage Council has published guidelines on bat survey methodology in relation to farm buildings that has very useful recommendations and statutory information. www.heritagecouncil.ie

Bat Conservation Ireland, and other groups and specialists provide survey services to local authorities and others for development proposals. www.batconservationireland.org

General information on Bats:

- All Irish bat species and their resting places (roosts) are protected by current National and European legislation as all bats have declined in recent years and some are threatened or endangered.

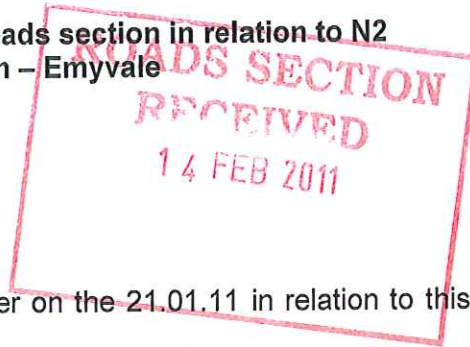
- Currently, ten bat species are known to be resident on the island of Ireland. Nine of these are likely to be found in Monaghan.
- Bats use a variety of roosts, including buildings, for varying reasons e.g. resting, mating, giving birth and hibernating.
- Some bat roosts are used daily, some nightly and some seasonally. Bats mate in autumn and spring and pregnant females then congregate in 'nursery' or 'maternity' roosts from mid-March to give birth and rear their single offspring. Numbers in such roosts increase until mid-June when they stabilise as the young are produced. After six to seven weeks, the young are able to undertake their first flights after which the colony begins to disperse.
- During the winter bats hibernate in suitable sites including buildings that offer temperatures of 5 or 6 °C.

Shirley Clerkin
Heritage Officer
Monaghan County Council
02.02.11

Monaghan County Council Heritage Office

**Advice to Monaghan County Council roads section in relation to N2
realignment, Monaghan – Emyvale**

11.02.11



Development proposal

The Roads Section met with the Heritage Officer on the 21.01.11 in relation to this proposal.

The MCC Roads Section intends to realign the N2, north of Monaghan town to Emyvale, a distance of approximately 8km. The Roads Section considers that the development proposed is below the threshold to trigger a mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment. If the road realignment project widened the road to four or more lanes, a mandatory EIA would be required as the road realignment project is 8km in length.

The development will involve the removal of a number of bends through the realignment of the existing carriageway and other adjustments. The Heritage Officer has not analysed whether an EIA may be advised for this development, due to significant environmental effects. This is the role of the Roads Section. If it is considered that the proposal will have significant environmental effects, then An Bord Pleanála must be asked for a direction on whether a sub-threshold EIA should be undertaken.

"The overriding consideration in determining whether a road scheme should be subject to EIA is the likelihood of significant environmental effects. Significant effects may arise by virtue of the type of road scheme, the scale or extent of the road scheme and the location of the road scheme in relation to sensitive environments."
NRA, Environmental Impact Assessment of National Roads Schemes.

Cumulative impacts may be a consideration. The N2 Clontibret to the Border Scheme plans combined with this N2 realignment project may result in significant environmental effects for this area.

Limited information has been provided to the Heritage Office at this time, and other issues may arise with regard to additional impacts on heritage. Comments are limited to a number of specific sites directly impacted on by the proposal or which are adjacent to the N2.

Other heritage comments dealing with hedges were sent to the Monaghan County Council Roads Section as PART ONE on 02.02.11.

This document contains:

- PART TWO – Churches and burial grounds
- PART THREE – Wetlands

PART TWO – Churches and burial grounds

Ternaneal Presbyterian Meeting House (Mullabrack (Scott))

N2 realignment proposal is to demolish this building.

This church is located in a small triangular plot just north of Tirnaneil Crossroads. The site is overgrown with large conifers, and rhododendron and so visibility of the church has diminished in recent years.



View of Ternaneal Meeting House from N2.

The meeting house was an extension of the congregation at the Ballyalbaney Meeting House, and there is no burial ground attached. It is not marked on the first edition OS map, but appears on the 2nd edition so may date from 1830-1850 or so. It closed in 1959. The church may have been built to meet the needs of Presbyterian stone masons and their families that were working on the construction of railway bridges or canal bridges locally, as was often the case at that time.

Description

Freestanding barn-style church dating 1830-1850. Three bays with two bay gables. Course rubble walling, squared quoins, rough render. Pitched slate roof, with stone verges, half-round iron gutters and round downpipes. Pointed arches throughout, stone sills, rectangular vents. Timber windows with multiple panes, coloured glass. Timber battened door with wrought iron door furniture.

The roof has fallen in on the church so little interior detail remains. According to a local person, there were box pews in the church in the 1980s. It was smooth rendered with lime to the interior, with blue paint.



Front elevation, door to left, window to right, blocked up central window,



South elevation



West elevation, front of church.



Interior gable wall.



Front elevation, with main door detail.



Section of timber window with coloured glass panels from gable wall.



Original front door.



Stone entrance pillars at entrance onto N2.

Church status

The church is not listed on the record of protected structures. However, it does have a heritage value. It is part of the historical record of the Presbyterian Church in County Monaghan, and is a nice example of a barn-style church. It is unusual in that its' entrance is on the long elevation. Presbyterian churches dating from this time tend to be accessed through the gable end.

Development proposal

To demolish church building due to proximity to realigned N2.

Impact of proposal

Permanent loss of church building.

Recommendations

It would be preferable if the road could avoid this building as it is of heritage merit, and its demolition will directly result in a loss of heritage and historic fabric.

The Presbyterian congregation should be consulted about the future of this church, prior to any decision being made with regard the impact of the realignment and to confirm that no burial ground is attached.

However, if it is decided to demolish Ternaneal Presbyterian Meeting House to make way for the road, a full architectural record of the building and its grounds should be commissioned and submitted with the planning application. Some of the surrounding vegetation should be cut back by hand prior to the record being completed to allow good quality photographs to be taken. A salvage plan should accompany the architectural record, identifying which stones are to be retained and stored by Monaghan County Council for re-use in other conservation projects.

Specification for an architectural survey and record as follows:

The survey and record should be undertaken by a professional with proven experience and qualifications in the area of architectural recording and survey.

The document to be produced will include an assessment of the building and site in the following contexts:

- **Assessment and statement of significance of the church and site**

- Assessment of its history

This should include its origins, how and why it has changed over time, the form and condition of its constituent elements and materials, the technology of its construction. The history of site ownership may be relevant, not only to its heritage values, but also to its current state and should also be included. Historic maps and other records should be consulted.

- Assessment of building character and form

A full architectural record of the exterior and interior elements of the building should be produced; including properly annotated photographs of elevations, roof detail, window and door detail and any architectural or other features associated with its original use.

- Assessment of building fabric

Detail should be provided on the materials used in the construction of the building.

- **Architectural Salvage**

Please identify the stone or architectural features to be salvaged from the Church. A plan for the storage of these stones should be agreed with Monaghan County Council.

The report should be provided in hard copy and electronically to the planning authority, and also lodged separately to the Monaghan County Council Heritage Officer so that it can be archived for future historical research.

*Pre-planning submission to Roads Section Monaghan County Council from Heritage Officer
Monaghan County Council, regarding N2 realignment north of Monaghan_11.02.11*

It is important that the document produced is clear in all its detail, references and photographs.

Former Church of Ireland chapel of ease at Atchinson Scrap Yard, Carrigans

This former church building is located in the Atchinson Scrap Yard complex, on the N2, south of the turn for Grove Lough. According to the owner, the church had links to the Church of Ireland congregation at Glaslough.

Dates for erection of the church are unknown, but it is present on the 2nd edition OS map. A detached building to the front, and a building attached to the southern side of the church are marked on the second edition map. These are no longer standing.

Description

Double height single cell gable fronted Church of Ireland, original pitched slate roof replaced with galvanised steel. Rough cast render. Three bays to front, door at ground level, three pointed arch windows above. Two bays to side, with square openings, now infilled with grills. Large arched window to rear gable, now used as access to workshop.

Redbrick window surrounds to gables. Square headed six panelled timber door to front. Timber battened ceiling with vents. Altar was originally to rear of church at large window.



Gable end of Church of Ireland, Carrigans.



Side view, northern elevation.



Interior, front elevation, pointed arch openings.



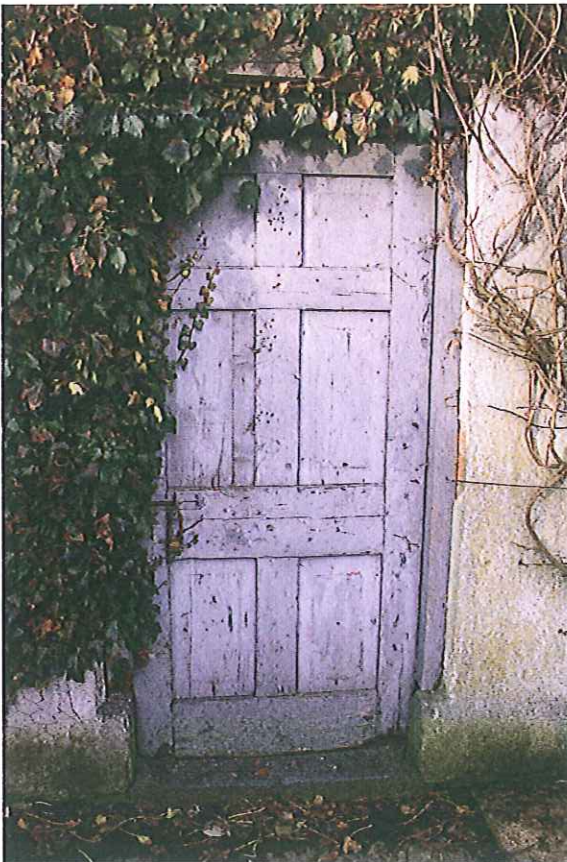
Former window on back gable wall, now forms door access to workshop.



Timber battened ceiling to interior with vent detail.



Side elevation (south) interior, with original beam to ceiling. Four courses of redbrick above stone.



Original door, stone step to front gable.



Entrance to church, now private garden.

Church status

The Church of Ireland at Carrigans is not on the Register of Protected Structures for the county, but it retains heritage value and should be fully recorded in the manner outlined for Ternaneal Presbyterian Meeting House should any development proposal impact upon it.

There is no burial ground associated with the church on this site.

Emyvale Presbyterian Meeting House and Burial Ground, Carrigans

This site is located to the north of the turn for Grove Lough, Carrigans on the N2. The meeting house was built in 1837, and was constructed of stone, unrendered. The meeting house on this site was knocked down and the stone sold locally over ten years ago. It was apparently incorporated into a private residence on the Cootehill Road across from the entrance to Rossmore Park outside Monaghan town.

The associated rectory was built around in the past, and the old building knocked down from inside and thrown out the windows. The original railings remain.

There is a burial ground on the site, with perhaps only two burials. Although the family headstone was relocated to Glennan Presbyterian Church some years ago, human remains are interred onsite as these were never moved.



Site of Emyvale Presbyterian Meeting House, the outline of the church can be seen in the centre of the photograph.



Emyvale Meeting House site viewed from N2.



Original forged iron gates and stone pillars to meeting house site.



View from rear of site. Church would have been located on area with different vegetation.

Status of site

Site of Presbyterian meeting house and burial ground.

Recommendations

Road works should avoid this site due the nature of the site as a burial ground.

St. Patricks Catholic Church, Corracrin

This church, set back from the road was built circa 1811, with more recent additions.

Description (from church inventory 2010)

Freestanding double-height stone gable-fronted Roman Catholic Church with Gothic Revival detailing, dated 1811, remodelled c.1900, enlarged c.1980. Consisting of an elongated three-bay nave with parallel modern (c.1980) east aisle and linking block (both slightly offset to north). Pitched slate roof, perforated red clay ridge tiles, stone verges, moulded cast-iron gutters. Sandstone walling with large squared and dressed blocks to corner segments, random uncoursed rubble to exposed sections of east elevation and to base of north gable (with evidence of blocked window to centre); squared-and-snecked to south gable and top of north gable; squared-and-tooled to centre of west elevation (with evidence of earlier blocked windows at lower level); north gable has date plaque.



Recommendations

No impact is anticipated to the church and burial ground at this location due to the N2 realignment. If the road plans are altered to come closer to this church and graveyard, then a full architectural impact study must be undertaken.

PART THREE – Wetlands

Griggy Lough

Small lake and associated wetland habitat to east of N2.

Description

Small lake with reed fringe, wet grassland habitat adjoining, small areas of trees to rear of lake and inflow with mainly birch species. Evidence of mammal usage of site.



Area of wet grassland, north of Griggy Lough.



Inflow to Griggy Lough. Note the Phragmites reed fringe around the lake.



Reed fringe surrounding Griggy Lough.

*Pre-planning submission to Roads Section Monaghan County Council from Heritage Officer
Monaghan County Council, regarding N2 realignment north of Monaghan_11.02.11*



Marked out area for realignment, coming very close to lake edge.



Area of recent infilling for road works.



Trees adjoining inflow.



Mammal droppings onsite.

Site status

The site is not designed as a Natural Heritage Area, but nonetheless contains habitats for plants and animals and is of at least local conservation value. It also forms part of the hydrological system for the area.

Development proposal

Excavation works are proposed alongside Griggy Lough to facilitate road realignment.

Recommendations

A qualified field ecologist should be commissioned by the Roads Section to undertake an ecological assessment of the site.

Ecological assessment:

A habitat survey is required for the site in line with the "Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping" (Heritage Council, 2010). This should be undertaken during the appropriate season for botanical surveying. The conservation value of the site should be determined using one of the evaluation methods outlined in the best practice guidance. This includes the NRA Ecological Impact Assessment habitat classification system for national roads (2009). Regardless of what conservation evaluation system is used when evaluating habitats, the interactions of the habitat with adjacent habitats and the wider landscape should be considered. Conservation value of habitats and sites should be done in the field where possible.

A faunal survey should be undertaken of the site, and submitted along with the habitat survey. The NRA has produced guidance on survey techniques with regard to national roads developments and these can be followed for this site.

The potential impact on hydrology of the road realignment must be considered on this site and other connected sites in relation to the consequences of any changes for habitat composition, water storage, flooding etc.

In addition, the site at Griggy Lough may be part of an ecological corridor or act as a stepping stone in the wider ecological context and this should be examined as part of the ecological assessment. Corridors or stepping stones are habitat patches that may not necessarily be of high conservation value themselves, but serve to maintain ecological connectivity in the landscape.

The ecological impact of the proposed works must be determined on the conservation value of the site, and in the wider context.

Mitigation measures must be proposed with regard to any potential negative impacts.



Shirley Cleekin
Heritage Officer

11.02.11