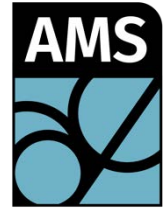


CMF23-1-DF004. Archaeological Monitoring Report: St Mary's Church of Ireland Clonmethan, Glebe, County Dublin (23E0470).



Archaeological
Management Solutions

PART 1 – ARCHAEOLOGICAL INFORMATION



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AMS Cultural Heritage Consultancy Limited trading as Archaeological Management Solutions

Company Registration No. 721173

Fahy's Road, Kilrush, Co. Clare. V15 C780

T +353 (0)65 9062 878

www.ams-consultancy.com

Disclaimer

The results, conclusions and recommendations contained within this report are based on information available at the time of its preparation. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that all relevant data have been collated, the author and AMS accept no responsibility for omissions and/or inconsistencies that may result from information becoming available subsequent to the report's completion.

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Summary

This report presents the findings of archaeological monitoring of conservation works at St Mary's Church of Ireland Clonmethan, Glebe, County Dublin. The conservation works were funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) under Stream 1 of the Community Monuments Fund (CMF) 2023 (CMF23-1-DF004). The monitoring was carried out under archaeological licence 23E0470, which was issued by the National Monuments Service (NMS) of the DHLGH to Dr Kim Rice. The conservation works were carried out from 8 August to 29 September 2023. No potential archaeological features, deposits and/or objects were noted during the archaeological monitoring.

The nineteenth-century St Mary's Church (RPS 0146; NIAH 11320004), occupies the site of the medieval parish church of Clonmethan (Healy 1975, 19). The church at *Rath Chillin* (RMP DU007-006001-) was confirmed to Laurence O'Toole by Pope Alexander III in 1179, it formed part of the Manor of Swords and was one of the thirteen original prebends of St Patrick's Cathedral. The medieval parish church of Clonmethan is mentioned in the documentary sources and continued in use through the post-medieval period. The church, which was in a ruinous condition was demolished in the early nineteenth century, and St Mary's Church, financed with a grant from the Board of First Fruits, was erected at the same location c.1818. St Mary's Church continued in use until it was deconsecrated in the mid-twentieth century; the associated graveyard (RMP DU007-006002-) is still in use.

Archaeological Management Solutions (AMS) were engaged by the Friends of Clonmethan as the project managers for the scheme. The conservation works were managed by a multi-disciplinary team of experienced consultants working in partnership with the Friends of Clonmethan; the team included a Project Archaeologist, Conservation Architect and Structural Engineer. The key objective of the works was to repair the church to ensure the maximum retention of historic fabric and ensure the preservation and protection of the structure from weathering and climate change well into the future.

The focus of the 2023 programme of conservation works was the bell tower of the nineteenth-century church. Vegetation was removed from the structure and the stonework was repointed with like-for-like mortars. The crenellations, cappings, pinnacles and loose masonry were bedded and reset and the modern blocks in the entrances to the bell tower and vestry were removed. A set of steel gates were fabricated and fitted in the two entrances, while the decayed lintels in the vestry were replaced.

The key remit of the archaeological monitoring was to ensure that no archaeological remains were adversely impacted during the conservation process and that any newly exposed features and/or fabric were investigated and recorded. No groundworks were undertaken as part of the works to ensure that subsurface archaeology was not disturbed. The Project Archaeologist liaised with the conservation team throughout the process.

The Friends of Clonmethan intend to undertake further actions to safeguard and foreground the cultural heritage of the site into the future. From a built heritage perspective, the following interventions are proposed for 2024:

- Repair and reinstatement of bell tower roof with like-for like slates.
- Conservation of first floor timber boards in ringing platform of bell tower. Extant sections shall be left *in situ* and the details recorded.
- Conservation of timber louvres in bell tower window.
- Stitch cracks in nave and vestry with a proprietary crack stitching product. Rake out and brickwork using like-for-like mortars.
- Strap or tie masonry in the northwest corner of the nave.
- Clear vegetation and rubble from floor of vestry under archaeological supervision to assess condition of floor slabs and lower section of fireplace.

- Undertake a condition survey of the historic graves in the graveyard.

The graveyard enclosure wall is in danger of collapse (see Nolan 2020 & Doyle 2022). In particular, the northeastern, eastern and southeastern sections, which are retaining a significant quantity of ground, are bulging outwards. Discussions will be undertaken with the NMS and the Fingal Heritage Officer to determine possible conservation-led interventions to stabilise the enclosing wall.

Recommendations are subject to the agreement of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Fingal Heritage Officer, the National Museum of Ireland and the local planning authority where required and should only be carried out in accordance with the necessary approvals. Please note that the statutory and local authorities may issue alternative and/or additional recommendations/conditions.

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Abbreviations and Definitions

Abbreviation	Definition
AMS	Archaeological Management Solutions
CHIA	Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment
CMF	Community Monuments Fund
CMP	Conservation Management Plan
DAHG	Department of Arts, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht
DAHGI	Department of Arts, Heritage, the Gaeltacht and the Islands
DEHLG	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
DIER	Database of Irish Excavation Reports
FCC	Fingal County Council
FFEC	Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants
HEV	Historic Environment Viewer
ITM	Irish Transverse Mercator
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
NMI	National Museum of Ireland
NMS	National Monuments Service
OS	Ordnance Survey
RCB	Representative Church Body
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
RPS	Record of Protected Structures
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
TÉ	Tailte Éireann
ZoN	Zone of Notification

Coordinate System

All grid coordinates in this report use the Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM) coordinate reference system unless otherwise stated.

1 Introduction

This report presents the findings of archaeological monitoring of conservation works at St Mary's Church of Ireland Clonmethan, Glebe, County Dublin (Figure 1, Figure 2 and Plate 1). The conservation works were funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) under Stream 1 of the Community Monuments Fund (CMF) 2023 (CMF23-1-DF004).

The monitoring was carried out under the archaeological licence 23E0470, which was issued by the National Monuments Service (NMS) of the DHLGH. The conservation works were carried out over a period of seven weeks, from 8 August to 29 September 2023. The site was handed back to the Representative Church Body (RCB) on Monday 16 October. No potential archaeological features, deposits and/or objects were uncovered and/or impacted during the archaeologically monitored conservation works.

Further details on compliance and funding in relation to the project, as well as the ownership of the site, are provided in the accompanying Part 2 report.

1.1 Project Background

St Mary's Church of Ireland Church,¹ which is a Protected Structure (RPS 0146) and is recorded in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Building Survey (NIAH 11320004) (Figure 3), stands on the site of the medieval parish church of Clonmethan (RMP DU007-006001-) and graveyard (RMP DU007-006002-) (Figure 4). The current structure was erected c.1818 with a grant from the Board of First Fruits (Board of the First Fruits 1815). The church was closed in 1960 due to the lack of patronage and is now ruinous. However, the graveyard is still in use as a burial ground.

Archaeological Management Solutions (AMS) were engaged by the Friends of Clonmethan as the project managers for the scheme. The Friends of Clonmethan comprises a group of local volunteers from Oldtown and the surrounding areas in north County Dublin whose key aim is to preserve St Mary's Church and graveyard for future generations. A number of the Friends of Clonmethan also have relatives buried in the graveyard.

Since their foundation in January 2020, the Friends of Clonmethan have undertaken a number of actions to conserve, enhance and promote the heritage of the nineteenth-century church and historic graveyard, in addition to the rich cultural heritage of the local Oldtown area.

¹ ITM 711120, 754580.

These volunteer-led initiatives include:

- In May 2020, they launched the Friends of Clonmethan website,² which includes a blog that posts content on the history and heritage of the site, as well as detailing the actions of the group.
- In the same month (May 2020), clean-ups of the church and graveyard were carried out, and floodlights were installed to illuminate the church from the west side.
- The cast-iron entrance gates were removed in June 2020 and restored and painted before reinstatement.
- In July 2020, the Friends of Clonmethan erected a new headstone for the Reverend Fredrick Henry Aldhouse, who was the last reverend of St Mary's and is buried in the graveyard. Aldhouse, who also served as a chaplain in France during World War I (1914–18) and was awarded a British War Medal, died in 1949. A verse of his poetry is inscribed on the headstone.
- The Friends of Clonmethan unveiled a Remembrance Day memorial in the graveyard to commemorate parishioners and other locals who died in World War I and World War II.
- Members delivered a tour of the graveyard to children from St Mary's National School in Oldtown village on dates in 2021, 2022 and 2023.
- The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, visited the site in June 2021 to see the clean-up work being undertaken by the Friends of Clonmethan.
- The grave of the Reverend Aldhouse was blessed by Archbishop Michael Jackson in October 2021. The event was also attended by Rector Neal Phair from Swords Grouped Parishes, Father John Keegan of Rolestown parish, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and Councillor Brian Dennehy. The Friends of Clonmethan presented Archbishop Jackson with a YMCA World War I medal, which was posthumously awarded to the Reverend Aldhouse in recognition of his humanitarian work during the Great War.
- A wreath-laying ceremony was carried out at the Remembrance Day memorial on Armistice Day (11 November 2021 and 2022), which was attended by the local community and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.³
- In July 2022, the Friends of Clonmethan were nominated for the Mayor of Fingal Community Groups Award.

On the 20 August 2023, the Friends of Clonmethan organised a Heritage Week event.⁴ It included an exhibition of material in Oldtown Village Hall related to the equine heritage of Oldtown, including a demonstration by a local farrier, in addition to a display of ecclesiastical artefacts from St Mary's Church (see Plate 3Plate 8). The group also led tours of Clonmethan graveyard, which included an explanation of the conservation works being undertaken on St Mary's Church (Plate 9).

² Website: <https://clonmethan.org/> [Accessed: 20.10.23].

³ The 2023 Remembrance Day wreath-laying ceremony will include a tour of the CMF-funded conservation works at St Mary's Church for the public.

⁴ For more information on the Heritage Week event see: <https://www.heritageweek.ie/event-listings/the-horse-in-irish-county-life> [Accessed: 20.10.23].

1.1.1 Community Monuments Fund 2022

In July 2022, the Friends of Clonmethan were awarded funding under Stream 2 of the CMF (CMF22-2-DF003) for the preparation of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for St Mary's Church and graveyard. They put together a cross-disciplinary team of cultural heritage, natural heritage, built heritage and conservation specialists to assist in the preparation of the CMP, which was led by AMS (see Rice 2022).

A key objective of the CMP was to provide a framework to enable the Friends of Clonmethan and the local community to conserve and preserve the archaeological, architectural, cultural, and natural heritage of the historic graveyard and church ruin. The CMP also provided guidance to appropriately address issues around the site's conservation, access and interpretation (see Rice 2022).

To date, a series of surveys and assessments have been undertaken of the church and graveyard as part of the project, which include the following:

- The Conservation Architect carried out a preliminary Condition Survey of the church and graveyard in October 2020 and produced an Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment that included a series of recommendations for future conservation works (Nolan 2020).
- Walkover Surveys were undertaken by the Project Archaeologist and Conservation Architect on 24 June 2022, 5 November 2022 and 17 May 2023, which assessed the condition and preservation of the archaeological and built heritage elements onsite.
- A Topographic Survey of the nineteenth-century church, graveyard and enclosure wall was carried out by AMS on 19 August 2022 as part of the CMP,⁵ which formed part of a Heritage Week event.
- An Arboricultural Survey of a mature beech tree in the graveyard was carried out by the Project Arborist on 18 October 2022 (Goodwin 2022).
- An Ecological Field Survey and a Preliminary Ground-Level Bat Roost Assessment was carried out of the church, graveyard and immediate locale by the project ecologists for the CMP on 24 October 2022 (FFEC 2022a & 2022b).
- A follow up Condition Survey was undertaken of the church, graveyard and graveyard enclosure wall for the CMP by the Structural Engineer and Conservation Architect on 20 October 2022 (Doyle 2022).
- A Photographic Survey was also carried out of the church by a professional photographer, which included rectified imagery of upper sections of the structure with a telephoto lens.

1.1.2 Community Monuments Fund 2023

The Friends of Clonmethan were awarded funding under Stream 1 of the CMF 2023 on 9 May to carry out essential repairs to the structure of the nineteenth-century church (CMF23-1-DF004). A Section

⁵ For more information see: <https://clonmethan.org/2022/08/19/digital-survey-for-heritage-week/> [Accessed: 20.10.23].

12(3) notification under the National Monuments Acts 1930–2014 in respect of the 2023 programme of works was submitted to the NMS on 10 May 2023. The notification response was received from the NMS on 7 July 2023. A licence application to cover archaeological monitoring of the conservation works was submitted with an accompanying Archaeological Method Statement to the NMS on the 19 May 2023 (see Rice 2023a). The licence was issued by the Licensing Section of the NMS on 29 May 2023.

A Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) was subsequently prepared to develop an appropriate archaeological strategy to avoid/mitigate any impacts to cultural heritage assets during the conservation works to the church (see Rice 2023b). The CHIA was submitted to the NMS and the Fingal Heritage Officer on 6 June 2023, as per the conditions of the CMF grant of funding.

In response to recommendations from the Built Heritage Policy Section of the NMS (see Section 3.1.1), the Conservation Architect prepared a Conservation Method Statement (Nolan 2023a), which was submitted to the NMS and the Fingal Heritage Officer on 15 June 2023. This was followed by a site meeting with the Fingal Heritage Officer, the NMS CMF Coordinator for Dublin, a representative of the Built Heritage Policy Section of the NMS, the building contractor, representatives of the Friends of Clonmethan, the Project Archaeologist and the Conservation Architect on 6 July. The key objective of the meeting was to discuss the proposed interventions and assess the condition of the church and the graveyard enclosure wall. Further updates were made to the Conservation Method Statement following recommendations from the NMS during the meeting.

The conservation works commenced on 8 August and were carried out under archaeological supervision over a seven-week period, from 8 August to 29 September 2023. A set of steel gates were fitted to the entrance of the bell tower and vestry on 11 October and the site was cleared and handed back to the RCB on 16 October (Plate 10).

1.2 Purpose and Scope of this Assessment

The purpose of the current assessment is to detail the findings of the archaeological monitoring, provide a contextual background to the site and outline the CMF-funded consolidation works that were carried out to St Mary's Church. A description of the 2023 phase of works is also provided in the accompanying Conservation Report (see Nolan 2023c).

The assessment included a comprehensive analysis of previous studies, as well as in-depth historical and cartographic analysis, with a view to informing an appropriate archaeological strategy to avoid/mitigate any likely impacts to St Mary's church and graveyard into the future. The sources consulted for the desktop survey are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Sources consulted for the desk-based assessment.

Data	Source
Background Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fingal Development Plan 2023–2029.⁶ • Fingal Heritage Plan 2018–2023.⁷ • Oldtown Local Area Plan.⁸ • Fingal Historic Graveyards Project (FCC 2008).⁹ • DRAFT Fingal Community Archaeology Strategy 2019–2023 (Baker 2019).¹⁰ • Fingal Cultural Heritage & Climate Change Risk Assessment (LUC with AMS & Tobin 2021).¹¹ • <i>A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland</i> (Lewis 1837). • Placenames Database of Ireland: <i>Logainm.ie</i>.¹² • Cartography: Tailte Éireann (TÉ) first edition six-inch and 25-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) maps, via QGIS (version 3.22) ArcGIS REST Servers. • Aerial and satellite imagery: Google Earth via Google Earth Pro; Digital Globe and orthophotographs via TE's Geohive Map Viewer.¹³ Bing Satellite and Google Satellite via QGIS (version 3.22) XYZ Tiles. • Previous Archaeological Investigations: Database of Irish Excavation Reports (DIER)¹⁴ and the Dublin County Heritage Licensed Excavations dataset through the Heritage Council's Heritage Maps viewer.¹⁵ • Stray finds: National Museum of Ireland (NMI) Topographical Files and Finds Database, which are available to view by appointment in the NMI Antiquities Division, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.
Designated Archaeological Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record of Monuments and Places (RMP): Statutory list of protected places and monuments, with accompanying constraints maps, published for Dublin (County of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, County of Fingal, County of South Dublin and Dublin County Borough) in 1998.¹⁶

⁶ Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/development-plan-2023-2029> [Accessed: 17.10.23].

⁷ Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2019-11/fingal-heritage-plan-2018-2023-heritage-plan-web.pdf> [Accessed: 17.10.23].

⁸ Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/oldtown-local-area-plan> [Accessed: 17.10.23].

⁹ Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/historic-graveyards> [Accessed: 17.10.23].

¹⁰ Available at: <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/consultation/draft-fingal-community-archaeology-strategy-2019-2023> [Accessed: 17.10.23].

¹¹ Available at: https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2021-07/fingal-cultural-heritage-risk-assessment-report_1.pdf [Accessed: 17.10.23].

¹² Available at: <https://www.logainm.ie/en/> [Accessed: 17.10.23].

¹³ Available at: <https://webapps.geohive.ie/mapviewer/index.html> [Accessed: 17.10.23].

¹⁴ Available at: <https://excavations.ie/> [Accessed: 17.10.23].

¹⁵ Available at: <https://www.heritagemaps.ie/WebApps/DublinCountyHeritage/index.html> [Accessed: 17.10.23].

¹⁶ Available at: [https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/pdf/Archaeology-RMP-Dublin-Manual-\(1998\)-0013.pdf](https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/pdf/Archaeology-RMP-Dublin-Manual-(1998)-0013.pdf) [Accessed: 17.10.23].

Data	Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NMS Historic Environment Viewer (HEV): Database of information on sites and monuments based on the RMP and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).¹⁷ The HEV provides information not only on those archaeological monuments included in the statutory RMP, but also in regard to many more that have been identified since the RMP was published in 1998 (NMS 2023). • Lists of National Monuments in State Care: Ownership and Guardianship for Dublin, published in 2009.¹⁸ • List of Preservation Orders held by the NMS, published in 2019.¹⁹
Designated Built Heritage Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register of Historic Monuments. • Fingal County Council (FCC) Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs).²⁰ • NIAH Building Survey and NIAH Survey of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes.²¹

¹⁷ Available at: <https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/> [Accessed: 17.10.23].

¹⁸ Available at: <https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/pdf/monuments-in-state-care-dublin.pdf> [Accessed: 17.10.23].

¹⁹ Available at: <https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/po19v1-all-counties.pdf> [Accessed: 17.10.23].

²⁰ Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2023-04/FCC%20%282023%29%20Fingal%20Development%20Plan%20Appendices%20%28April%202023%29.pdf> [Accessed: 17.10.23].

²¹ Available at: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/> [Accessed: 17.10.23].

2 Site Location and Description

2.1 Site Location and Type

St Mary's Church is situated in the townland of Glebe, which is in the civil parish of Clonmethan and barony of Balrothery West, in north County Dublin (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The Irish form of Clonmethan, *Gleann Meáin*, means the Glen of Meáin²² (Table 2). The church and graveyard are set in rolling pasture to the east of the R122 regional road that leads from Oldtown to Naul. No upstanding archaeological features are evident in the historic graveyard; however, there is a bank and ditch within the northern part of the site that are suggestive of a possible earlier enclosure (FCC 2008, 80). The church and graveyard lie c.580m to the north-northwest of the village of Oldtown, which is situated c.10km north of Swords, County Dublin and c.6km east of Ashbourne, County Meath.

The local hinterland comprises low-lying well-drained mineral soils with a high level of fertile cultivation. The Oldtown Branch of the Ballyboghil River is located c.60m to the north of the church, while the Daws River, also a tributary of the Ballyboghil River, flows in a west to northeast direction through Oldtown, c.700m to the south. Seven townlands occur within a 1km radius of the site, which include, in addition to Glebe, the townlands of Browns Cross, Clonmethan, Jordanstown, Leastown, Oldtown and Wyanstown (Table 2).

Table 2: Townlands within a 1km radius of the site.

Townland (English) ²³	Gaelic Name	Suggested Meaning	Civil Parish	Barony
Browns Cross	<i>Crois an Bhrúnaigh</i>	Brown's Crossroads/Cross	Clonmethan	Balrothery West
Clonmethan	<i>Gleann Meáin</i>	The Glen of Meáin	Clonmethan	Balrothery West
Glebe	<i>An Ghléib</i>	N/A	Clonmethan	Balrothery West
Jordanstown	<i>Baile Shiurdáin</i>	The Townland/Homestead of Shiurdáin	Clonmethan; Palmerstown	Balrothery West
Leastown	<i>Baile an Lígh</i>	The Townland/Homestead of Lígh	Westpalstown	Balrothery West
Oldtown	<i>An Seanbhaile</i>	The Old Town	Clonmethan	Balrothery West
Wyanstown	<i>Baile Bhuín</i>	The Townland/Homestead of Bhuín	Clonmethan	Balrothery West

²² Source: <https://www.logainm.ie/en/838> [Accessed: 11.10.23].

²³ Townland data from: <https://www.logainm.ie/en/> [Accessed: 11.10.23].

2.2 Statutory Protection that Applies to the Site

St Mary's Church is a Protected Structure (RPS 0146) and is recorded in the NIAH Building Survey (NIAH 11320004) (Figure 3). The nineteenth-century church stands on the site of the medieval parish church of Clonmethan (RMP DU007-006001-) and graveyard (RMP DU007-006002) (Figure 4), which are both Recorded Monuments that are also listed in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).

2.3 Condition of the Site

The nineteenth-century St Mary's Church (RPS 0146; NIAH 11320004) occupies the site of the medieval parish church of Clonmethan (Healy 1975, 19). The church at *Rath Chillin* (RMP DU007-006001-) was confirmed to Laurence O'Toole by Pope Alexander III in 1179, it formed part of the Manor of Swords and was one of the thirteen original prebends of St Patrick's Cathedral. The medieval parish church of Clonmethan is mentioned in the documentary sources and continued in use through the post-medieval period (see Section 4.1). The parish church, which was in a ruinous condition was demolished in the early-nineteenth century, and St Mary's Church, financed with a grant from the Board of First Fruits, was erected at the same location c.1818. St Mary's Church continued in use until it was deconsecrated in the mid-twentieth century; the associated graveyard (RMP DU007-006002-) is still in use.

There is no visible evidence of the medieval nave and chancel of the parish church DU007-006001-. The medieval parish church is depicted as a sub-rectangular building within a square graveyard on John Rocque's map of County Dublin from 1760 (Figure 5). Roque also indicated two buildings and a formal garden to the east, with a third building to the south.

Finds of medieval date from the site include a fragment of a single light cusped trefoil-headed medieval window (Plate 5), which was discovered by the Friends of Clonmethan at the western end of the nave of St Mary's Church. The architectural fragment, which measures 0.49m by 0.33m by 0.25m, includes a glazing groove that is 15mm in width and hollowed stone spandrels that are carved on both sides.

St Mary's Church is sited towards the western end of the graveyard (Figure 6). The graveyard (DU007-006002-), which measures 46m north-northeast–south-southwest by 60m north-northwest–south-southeast and covers an area of c.2700m², is bounded by a nineteenth-century limestone wall, except to the north, where the boundary is composed of mature trees and hedgerow. The earliest grave marker in the cemetery dates to 1754 (Egan 1992).

The church and graveyard are set in elevated ground that is c.2m higher than the level of the R122 regional road to the west. The main entrance at the south-western corner of the site is neatly formed,

defined by iron gates and piers and is approached by a ramped entrance, splayed from the road (Nolan 2020, 4; see Plate 10). There is a pedestrian pathway that leads northwest to southeast, from the church and graveyard to the former Glebe House (RPS 0145; NIAH 11320003), which is accessed via a cast-iron pedestrian gate in the east wall (Figure 6).

The church consists of a vestry, three-bay nave and a two-stage crenelated bell tower to the west end (see Figure 7 Figure 10). The detached single-storey unroofed church building, which includes blocked pointed arched openings to the south elevation, is composed of snecked limestone with evidence in places for roughcast render (Nolan 2020, 4). The internal walls are lined with irregularly bonded brick with numerous headers in evidence (Plate 2). The windows and external doors have pointed brick-formed arches, while the internal opening between the vestry and nave is supported by a flat timber lintel. The lower external opes are blocked-up and the opes at the upper levels of the tower are extant. Window sills are of stone. There is projected stone coping at the eaves that is carried around the tower as a string course; and the tower is topped with a crenelated parapet that has tapering stone pinnacles in each corner (*ibid.*, 4–5).

The structure was externally rendered with a harling-type material, except for the projecting quoins of the tower, which were of a more regularly dressed stone (Plate 1). These elements have since been repointed with a cement-rich mortar; however, much of the external render is no longer extant. The interior of the church was lime-rendered, apart from the upper unrendered levels of the tower and the lower sections of walling in the church body, which were panelled with timber wainscot (Nolan 2020, 5).

2.3.1 Structural Condition of Church

2.3.1.1 Nave and Vestry

There is full height vertical cracking at the northwest internal corner of the nave (Plate 11), and portions of the wall are covered with ivy (Plate 13); some of this ivy was removed as part of the 2023 phase of works. There is hairline cracking above the top western corner of the door to the vestry and above the door opening (Plate 12). This cracking was possibly derived from weaknesses in the original timber lintels above the door; the masonry here is propped. The original lintels consisted of timber planks that had completely perished.

There is a full height crack above the western side of the vestry fireplace (Plate 14). A vertical crack above the door to the nave was also evident (Plate 15). In addition, the timber lintel above the window on the west wall of the vestry was badly degraded (Plate 16).

2.3.1.2 South Elevation (Internal)

There is significant cracking above the window opening beside the southeast corner of the nave, which in places, is c.40mm in width (Plate 17). Considerable movement has occurred at this location. There is cracking at the left-hand side window beside the southeast corner, with diagonal cracking visible in the brickwork (Plate 18).

2.3.1.3 East Elevation (Internal)

The end gable wall in the east elevation is in relatively good condition (e.g., Plate 26). The nave walls are capped with an *in-situ* concrete capping (Figure 8) that has prevented water ingress into the wall fabric.

2.3.1.4 West Elevation (Internal)

In advance of the 2023 phase of works, there was hairline vertical cracking at the top of the access door to the bell tower and the upper sections were covered with ivy (Plate 2). There was also vertical cracking above the window opening in the western elevation of the bell tower.

2.3.1.5 East Elevation (External)

The end gable wall in the external east elevation is in reasonable condition.

2.3.1.6 South Elevation (External)

There is cracking at the window on the south elevation, including the bottom left-hand corner. A gap has opened between the left side window reveal and infill blockwork. This gap coupled with the cracking at the top of this window suggests that movement is ongoing in the southwest corner of the nave.

2.3.1.7 North Elevation (External)

The stonework at the top section of the bell tower needed repointing, which was carried out as part of the 2023 phase of works.

2.3.1.8 West Elevation (External)

The west elevation was reasonably intact. However, the stone, cappings and pinnacles in the upper sections of the bell tower were in very poor condition and could be moved by slight hand pressure (Plate 19 & Plate 20). The stone, cappings and pinnacles were re-bedded and reset as part of the 2023 phase of works.

3 Conservation Works

The CMP (Rice 2022) for the site, in addition to the Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment (Nolan 2020) and the Condition Survey (Doyle 2022) formed the basis of the conservation works that were undertaken in August and September 2023. A method statement was submitted with the CMF Stream 1 application in February 2023 that detailed the proposed interventions (Rice & Nolan 2023).

The interventions proposed in the 2023 CMF application, which are shown on Figure 11, included the following:

- Control ivy growth on masonry in the nave, vestry and bell tower of the church under archaeological supervision. Ivy will be cut back and allowed to fully die-off and dry-off before removal to prevent masonry collapse and/or structural instability (e.g., DEHLG 2010, 49).
- Ground tree stumps in nave and chip vegetation. Chippings to be retained onsite to cover areas of exposed/eroded ground in graveyard. Trees and roots will not be grubbed-out, as this process can cause serious damage to archaeological remains.
- Loose stones uncovered through vegetation clearance to be retained onsite until recorded. Loose stone will be tagged and stored in secure location on site.
- Cracks in nave, bell tower and vestry to be stitched with a proprietary crack stitching product such as Helibar. Brickwork raked out and repointed using like-for-like mortars.
- Masonry in the northwest corner of the nave to be strapped or tied.
- The wall in the southwest corner of the nave to be underpinned.
- Prop masonry arch in southeast corner of nave.
- Seal concrete capping layer in nave with a layer of torch-on felt membrane to extend protection of walls for medium term.
- Rake-out and repoint upper courses of brickwork in nave, vestry and bell tower.
- Samples of the raked-out mortar to be analysed by a suitably qualified and competent professional to clarify the constituent elements and inform the development of new mortars for repointing and/or structural repair. The existing mortar shall be referred to in establishing the new mixes.
- Install new timber lintels above door opening to vestry and window on west wall of vestry.
- Reset cappings and pinnacles in bell tower; loose masonry to be bedded and reset.
- Prop/rebuild Infill panel in the bell tower door.
- Conservation of first floor timber boards in bell tower. Extant sections to be left *in situ* and the details recorded.
- Repair and reinstatement of bell tower roof.

3.1.1 Archaeological Method Statement

Following the awarding of the grant in May 2023, an archaeological licence application was submitted to the NMS that was accompanied by an Archaeological Method Statement (Rice 2023a). The method statement set out the aims of the archaeological monitoring, in addition to the proposed scope of

conservation works, which included a provision that no underpinning or groundworks would be undertaken to ensure that subsurface archaeology was not impacted. In response, the Built Heritage Policy Section of the NMS issued a series of recommendations on 29 May 2023 in advance of the commencement of works, which included the following:

1. Specific conditions attached to the grant of CMF funding, where applicable, shall be complied with.
2. The applicant shall liaise with the Fingal Local Authority Architectural Conservation Officer noting that Section 12 (3) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 (Recorded Monument) and Notification under Section 5 (8) of the 1987 Act (Register of Historic Monuments) does not relieve the applicant/owner of the responsibility of complying with any requirements under other codes or legislation affecting the proposal, including any consents (Section 5/Section 57) or permissions as may be required under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).
3. The applicants Conservation Architect shall provide a detailed and tailored specification of works supported by marked-up drawings for approval by the NMS, to include details of the following:
 - a. Underpinning (to include extent and scope),
 - b. Stitching (to include extent and scope),
 - c. Diagonal bracing
 - d. Works to the crenelated parapet and corner pinnacles (to include a photographic record demonstrating that full reseating is justified).
 - e. Works to the tower floor,
 - f. Works to the tower roof.
 - g. Details of the proposed mortar mix for repointing and bedding works to both the church and boundary. This shall be based on analysis of existing surviving mortars and noting a general preference for the use of NHL2 and hot-lime mixes. Aggregates shall be based on assessment of the historic mortars in terms of size, type, grade and mix ratio. Any rebuilding works shall match the character of adjacent areas taking into account the coursing, workmanship and use of pinning's etc.
4. The application of a torch-on felt membrane to the concrete coping is not considered appropriate and shall be omitted from the proposals. Consideration shall be given to pointing skyward facing and opening joints in a lime-based mortar.
5. The works shall be carried out in accordance with the standards of practice as outlined in the Department's *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (2011),²⁴ and the Advice Series issued by the DHLGH.

²⁴ Available at: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Architectural-Heritage-Protection-Guidelines-for-Planning-Authorities-2011.pdf> [Accessed: 20.10.23].

6. All works shall be designed, managed and overseen on site by a suitably qualified conservation professional with expertise in the conservation and repair of similar nineteenth-century structures. The conservation professional shall sign off on completion that the works have been carried out in line with best conservation practice and provide the Department with a report recording the works carried out.
7. All works shall be scheduled and carried out by appropriately experienced heritage contractors and conservators with proven expertise in the repair of similar nineteenth-century structures.
8. On completion, a record shall be compiled of the works which have taken place including the location and nature of interventions, specifications of new materials used on the structure etc. and that copies of this record be forwarded to the NMS.

3.1.2 Conservation Method Statement

In response, the Conservation Architect prepared a Conservation Method Statement with accompanying annotated drawings (Nolan 2023a). It included details on extent and scope of stitching, as well as the proposed mortar mix for repointing and bedding works. It was submitted to the NMS and the Fingal Heritage Officer in June for comment and approval, and included the following proposals:

- All conditions attached to the CMF grant of funding shall be fully complied with.
- The Conservation Architect, Structural Engineer and Project Archaeologist shall liaise with the NMS, including the CMF Archaeologist, Built Heritage Policy Section and Licensing Section, and the Fingal Heritage Officer throughout the process.
- The diagonal bracing was an early proposal and will no longer be undertaken.
- It is not proposed to carry out any works to the graveyard enclosure wall due to the high potential for disturbance of human remains, subsurface archaeological remains and archaeological objects.
- Similarly, it is not proposed to undertake any underpinning works to either the church or graveyard enclosure wall due to the presence of human remains and subsurface archaeological deposits/features/objects.
- The remaining sections of the wooden floorboards on the first-floor level of the bell tower will be left *in situ* and will not be removed.
- To date, it has not been possible to access the upper parts of the bell tower for inspection. It is proposed to investigate the condition of the upper sections, including the crenelated parapet and corner pinnacles, when scaffolding is erected. A condition survey of these elements, to include a photographic survey and conservation proposals, will then be submitted to the NMS for approval and agreement.
- The existing capping of the church is of *in situ* concrete that was poured in the 1960s; it has no joints. The torch-on-felt would render the existing concrete less porous. However, if the torch-on-felt is considered inappropriate by NMS, it will be omitted.

Following the submission of the Conservation Method Statement, a site meeting was arranged and was attended by the Project Archaeologist, Conservation Architect, building contractor, Fingal

Heritage Officer, representatives of the NMS and the Friends of Clonmethan. The church was inspected, and the proposed interventions were discussed in detail. Further updates were made to the Conservation Method Statement (Revision A) (see Nolan 2023a) following recommendations from the Built Heritage Policy Section of the NMS.

The recommendations included the following:

- Design and fixing details of the two proposed new gates be provided at a scale of 1:10 for approval, with design and details to be approved by the NMS in advance of fabrication. The modern blockwork should be removed from the two external openings.
- Every effort be made to reinstate the bell tower roof on a like-for like basis reusing the existing slate, supplemented where necessary with new/salvaged slate. Where sound existing slate is found to be in insufficient numbers, consideration should be given to re-slating one of the pitches using the existing slate, while using an alternative slate for the remaining pitch. A slate finish would provide a more durable and permanent weathering and would be more cost effective in the long term.
- The maintenance plan for the building provides for the monitoring of tell-tales.

The NMS approved conservation interventions are shown on Figure 12Figure 15 and are also detailed in the Conservation Report for the site (see Nolan 2023c).

3.1.3 2023 Consolidation Works

The building conservation and repair works commenced on 8 August 2023. The works were carried out by a Building Supervisor, an experienced Stone Mason and a General Operative, with input from the Conservation Architect, Structural Engineer and Project Archaeologist. The scaffolding was erected from 8–11 August (Plate 21), with vegetation removed from the bell tower by the 16 August. The legs of the scaffolding were placed on wooden boards to avoid impacts to the ground and burial ground. The mortar on the bell tower was raked out under archaeological supervision and samples of the mortar were taken and matched by the Stone Mason and Conservation Architect, who are experienced in the development of mortars. The chute of the cast-iron water pipe on the north elevation was cleared out (Plate 32), the cracks around the windows on the west elevation were filled, and the repointing of the stonework in the bell tower commenced in earnest.

The removal of vegetation from the bell tower and availability of scaffolding also allowed, for the first time, a detailed inspection of the topmost level of the tower by the Conservation Architect, Structural Engineer and Project Archaeologist. The condition of the inner faces of the walling piers under the pinnacles and crenellations was much worse than anticipated (e.g., Plate 19 and Plate 20), as follows:

- Pointing washed away on inner faces – more extensively than on outer surfaces.
- Stone to corner piers and mini-piers badly degraded, with many displaced or missing.
- Crenellation cappings badly degraded or displaced, with later sand/cement added to some.

Updated condition reports and drawings were prepared by the Conservation Architect and Structural Engineer following the inspection (see Nolan 2023c), which were submitted to the NMS and the Fingal Heritage Officer. Owing to health and safety concerns, a further meeting was held with the NMS onsite on the 8 September, who inspected the piers and crenellations (Plate 27). An Updated Conservation Method Statement (Revision B) was submitted to the Fingal Heritage Officer and the NMS on 18 September (Nolan 2023b), which included proposals and costings for resetting the mini-piers, crenellations, settings and pinnacles (Figure 16). A top-up-grant was confirmed by the NMS on 19 September to enable the resetting of the structural elements.

The repointing and re-bedding of stone on the bell tower and parts of the nave and vestry was completed by 29 September (Plate 33 and Plate 34), the corner piers were stabilised and mortar haunching was applied to the crenellations. In addition, the modern blockwork was removed from the two doorways, and the decayed wooden lintels in the vestry were replaced. Tell-tales were fitted to sections of the structure, which will be monitored going forward (Plate 35). The Fingal Heritage Officer inspected the completed conservation works on 29 September.

A set of steel gates were fabricated, which followed the specifications developed by the Conservation Architect in consultation with the Built Heritage Policy Section of the NMS. The gates were fitted to the entrance to the bell tower and vestry on 11 October (Plate 29 and Plate 30). The floor slabs in the ground floor of the vestry were exposed and cleaned (Plate 30 and Plate 31), and the site was cleared of building debris. Following the removal of welfare facilities, fencing and signage, the site was handed back to the RCB on Monday 16 October (Plate 10).

4 Receiving Cultural Heritage Environment

4.1 Archaeological and Historical Background

4.1.1 Prehistoric Period (c.8000BC–AD400)

The Irish Mesolithic is subdivided into two phases on the basis of stone tool technologies and cultural traditions – the Early Mesolithic (8000–7000/6500 BC) and Late Mesolithic (7000/6500–4000 BC) (Chapple *et al.* 2022; Woodman 2011; Bayliss & Woodman 2009). Evidence for the Irish Mesolithic tends to be concentrated around or in close proximity to coastal areas, along river and lake shores, and elevated river valley positions. Mesolithic society was characterised by small kin groups of nomadic hunter-fisher-gatherers that exploited seasonally available food resources such as fruit, nuts, berries, fish and wild fowl. The archaeological record of this period presents as the remains of temporary settlements, fishing technology, chipped stone implements and production waste (debitage). Evidence for Early and Late Mesolithic has been uncovered from middens along the north Dublin coastline. For example, a possible microlith was uncovered from midden material (RMP DU008-013003-) that was sealed by a passage tomb. The site was located on a small headland to the south of Loughshinny in Rush, c.15.7km to the east-northeast of St Mary's Clonmethan.

The Neolithic period (4000–2400BC) witnessed the introduction of agriculture to Ireland and the change from a highly mobile hunter-gatherer lifestyle to one of a more sedentary nature based on livestock husbandry and cereal cultivation. This brought corresponding changes in settlement form, food production, burial practices and material culture (e.g., Cooney 2000). The time between 3750 and 3600BC saw a period of rapid expansion across the country, which included the construction of timber-built rectangular houses and monumental hilltop enclosures, as well as monumental court tombs and portal tombs (e.g., Lynch 2014; Schulting *et al.* 2012; Whittle *et al.* 2011). There is no direct evidence for Neolithic settlement within the local Oldtown area. However, there is a portal tomb c.21.7km to the southeast in Howth (RMP DU015-032----), as well as a passage tomb complex c.14.2km to the northeast in Bremore (RMP DU002-001001- to DU002-001005-).

The Bronze Age (2400–500BC) is typically associated with the introduction and development of metal technology, the production of a diverse range of copper, bronze and gold objects, as well as the emergence of a distinct warrior elite class defined by high-status weaponry towards the end of the period (Waddell 2000). The material culture included not only weapons and tools, but also high-status items of personal adornment. This technological innovation went hand-in-hand with an intensification of agriculture that was largely facilitated by the availability of more efficient tools.

Possible evidence for Bronze Age activity in the Oldtown area is suggested by an entry in the Wakeman Collection in the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) that details how fragments of a mortuary vessel

(NMI Reg. 2513:Wk030), bronze dagger (NMI Reg. 2514:Wk031) and cremated bone were recovered from a rath (RMP DU007-022----) at 'Dun Hill' in Oldtown. The low earthwork, which was levelled, was possibly located near the former Post Office.

Barrows and ring ditches are burial monuments that date from the Bronze Age through to the Iron Age. They consist of a circular domed area enclosed by a ditch and occasionally also by an external bank. A circular ring ditch is located in the townland of Jordanstown (RMP DU007-064----), c.2.45km to the southwest of the site, with another (RMP DU007-058----) in Westpalstown, c.3.3km to the southeast.

4.1.2 Early Medieval Period (AD400–1100)

The early medieval period saw significant social, cultural, political and technological changes in Ireland. The beginning of the period saw the arrival of Christianity, the gradual conversion of the population, the flourishing of Irish monasteries, the development of church sites and the spread of literacy. However, there is no evidence that Clonmethan Church was founded at this time. The period, which spanned 700 years, also comprised a time of economic and environmental change. Surviving law tracts, which provide valuable insights into the nature of Irish society at the time, suggest Ireland was roughly divided into small kingdoms (*tuatha*) that largely operated as pastoral communities bounded by ties of kinship (Edwards 1996, 8).

The area north of the River Tolka formed part of the Kingdom of Brega, which may have been occupied by the Gailenga and the Saitne tribes during the early medieval period (Stout & Stout 1992, 20). Brega comprised five Gaelic *triocha-cheds* (equivalent to cantreds, or the later baronies), and was ruled by the King of Tara (O'Donovan 1856). These Gaelic chieftains held sway over the area until the first phase of Scandinavian settlement, which lasted from AD 841 to 902 and consisted of a central *longphort* and a series of dependant forts from which territory was governed (Bradley 2009, 55). Scandinavian control ceased in these areas in AD 902 when Dublin was captured by a Leinster and Brega military coalition and the foreigners were expelled (Murphy & Potterton 2010, 61). However, Dublin was subsequently refounded in AD 917, and the Hiberno-Norse town and its hinterland developed through the tenth century (Bradley 2009, 49).

The area of *Crích Gall*, 'The Territory/Land of the Foreigners', is referred to in tenth century written sources (Murphy & Potterton 2010, 61). By the eleventh century, the territory which was known as *Fine Gall* to the Gaelic-Irish and *Dyflinarskiri* to the Scandinavians was the agricultural hinterland of Dublin and stretched from the Hiberno-Norse town of *Dyflin*, north to Skerries and west to Leixlip (*ibid.*). It was from this region that Viking Dublin acquired some of the raw materials for manufacturing goods for international trade and agricultural produce, both for their own consumption and for sale

abroad. While Viking settlement spread outwards from the Liffey Basin during the eleventh and twelfth centuries, there is no indication that the native Irish were displaced in the *Fine Gall* region (e.g., Simms & Fagan 1992, 89).

4.1.3 Medieval Period (AD1100–1550)

The eleventh and twelfth centuries in Dublin were characterised by the dynastic struggles and social upheaval that followed the death of Brian Borumha in 1014. In 1169, the deposed King of Leinster, Diarmait MacMurchada, sought support from mercenaries from England, Wales and Flanders to assist him in his challenge for kingship (Stout & Stout 1992). Richard de Clare and his followers subsequently landed in Wexford to support MacMurchada, and in the aftermath of the Anglo-Norman conquest of the Dublin from 1170–71, the lands of the defeated Irish and Hiberno-Norse were divided and granted to the Anglo-Norman nobles and other allies of King Henry II.

Wealthy ecclesiastical institutions continued to exist following the conquest of the city and their extensive properties and holdings were ratified under the new Anglo-Norman regime. In 1179, Pope Alexander III confirmed the churches and villas of the see of Dublin, which included *Rath Chillín*,²⁵ (Clonmethan) to Laurence O'Toole (Ronan 1930, 71), who had been consecrated as archbishop of Dublin in 1162. In the twelfth century, the archbishopric of Dublin owned c.53,000 acres of land (Jackson 1975, 83; Simpson 1997, 20), which included lands previously held by the monastic houses of Swords, Finglas, Lusk, Clondalkin, Tallaght and east Wicklow (McNeill 1950, 3).

John Comyn was elected archbishop of Dublin in 1181, following the death of Laurence O'Toole. In 1190, Pope Clement III confirmed to Comyn the manorial centres of St Sepulchre, Swords, Rathcoole, Tallaght, Clondalkin, Shankhill, Ballymore Eustace, Castlekevin and Finglas (McNeill 1950, 17; D'Alton 1838a, 69). The principal manor was St Sepulchre, which comprised over 3,070 acres of lands that extended beyond the limits of the medieval city (Jackson 1975, 83). In the city, the manor was outside the city walls and to the southeast of the collegiate church of St Patrick and included the archiepiscopal palace and gardens (McNeill 1950, 38–39; Simpson 2009). To the north of the Liffey, the archiepiscopal lands included Clonmethan, Swords, Lusk, Finglas, Portraine and Swords (Murphy & Potterton 2010, 76; Mills 1890, 54). The largest of these was Swords, which contained c.9,000 acres (Otway-Ruthven 1961, 57).

Comyn's charter of 1191/92, which elevated St Patrick's to a collegiate church, allowed for a chapter of thirteen canons, whose prebendaries were provided with archiepiscopal lands. Clonmethan was

²⁵ The name *Rath Chillín*, meaning the 'Defended/Enclosed Little Church,' suggests the church may have had pre-Norman origins (e.g., Smyth 1992, 150; Murphy & Potterton 2010, 210).

one of the thirteen original prebends of St Patrick's (Ronan 1941a, 7; Mason 1820, 53), the number thirteen was selected to reflect Christ and the twelve Apostles. A prebend was a form of benefice held by a prebendary (a canon of a cathedral or collegiate church). The stipend attached to the prebend was drawn from the church, tithes, and obventions of the altar and cemetery of the parish (Nicholls 1973, 103). The canons and prebendaries of St Patrick's administered their churches and managed their own affairs (*ibid.*).

In 1216, Pope Innocent III confirmed the houses and buildings of St Sepulchre's with burgages appurtenances, including 'Glinmethan' (Clonmethan), to Henry de Loundres, archbishop of Dublin (Ronan 1930, 72). De Loundres was also granted the episcopal manor at Swords and made his cathedral see at St Patrick's Cathedral (D'Alton 1838a, 85). In the Papal Taxation of 1302–06, the prebend was valued at twenty marks and was taxed at two marks (Archivium Hibernicum 1913, 10; Stokes 1897, 410). The Calendar of the Justiciary Rolls records that in 1308, the goods of Eustace of Glenmethan (Clonmethan) consisted of five acres of wheat and hastivell,²⁶ as well as nine acres of beans and peas (Murphy & Potterton 2010, 304).

A detailed account survives of commodities that were purchased by Nicholas Goldyng and Hugh de Castleknock, royal purveyors of victuals in Dublin during the years 1314–15 (Murphy & Potterton 2010, 475). The goods, which included wheat, oats and wine, were destined for the king's army in Cumberland; however, some supplies were diverted to castles in Leinster and Carrickfergus Castle, County Antrim (*ibid.*, 475–76). One of their largest purchases was during the period May to October 1314, when 45 crannocks of wheat were obtained from the procurator of the rector of Clonmethan (*ibid.*, 476). It is possible that the rector was selling some of his parishioners' tithes (*ibid.*).

In 1317, the archbishop of Dublin was seised in right of his see; his lands included 125 acres of land in Clonmethan, while in 1321, Thomas de Montpellier is recorded as the prebendary of Clonmethan (Jackson Lawlor 1912, 339). In 1414, The prebendary of Clonmethan, Thomas Cranley, was sued in 1414 for two-thirds parts of the issues and profits of the prebend for two years. The claim, which attested he was an absentee prebendary, was subsequently dropped when the king issued a patent that licensed his absence (D'Alton 1838b, 403–04).

Papal letters from 1428 indicate that in April 1421, Thomas Russell, the perpetual vicar of St Peter's, Drogheda and a papal abbreviator who was held in favour at the Roman Court, was granted the prebend of Clonmethan. Russell also held the prebend of Swords, the archdeaconry of Kells and a canonry in Lincoln, England (Archivium Hibernicum 1913, 6). His appointment was contested by John

²⁶ Hastivell was an early ripening variety of barley (Murphy & Potterton 2010, 304).

Whythede, but Russell won the suit in February 1422 (*ibid.*). Pope Callixtus III appointed Nicholas Hackett as the dean of Ossory and a prebendary of Lismore, to Clonmethan in 1429. This resulted in a dispute between Hackett and Russell, after which both resigned (*ibid.*). William Haddessors was subsequently provided by the pope to Clonmethan, but Walter Hill secured the prebend from Pope Eugene IV and the archbishop of Dublin in 1431 and held it until his death in 1462 (Archivium Hibernicum 1913, 14 & 20).

The prebend of Clonmethan was valued at £28 6s 9d in 1538 (D'Alton 1838b, 403–04), and £21 5s 4d in 1547 (Murray 1991–92, 146; Ronan 1941a, 7). Nicholas Lyn was prebendary of Clonmethan during the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII. An inquisition detailed the possessions of the prebend as one manse and eight acres of land with a value of 8s. The tithes of the hamlets of Clonmethan, Old-town, Killeene, Cabragh, Morton, Jordanstown, Cotterelstown, Newinnings, Wyanstown, and the fifty acres near Morton had a worth per annum (exclusive of the altarages and demesne assigned for the curate at Clonmethan and repair of the chancel) of £17 5s. together with the tithes of Fieldstown – exclusive of the altarages and stipend assigned to the curate (D'Alton 1838b, 404). The rectory of Clonmethan was leased to John Talbot of Malahide in 1547. Talbot, in turn, assigned the rectory to Patrick Barnewall of Gracedieu for a lease of twenty-one years at an annual rent of £21 5s. 4d (Archivium Hibernicum 1913, 6).

4.1.4 *Post-Medieval Period (AD1550–1800)*

In 1560, Alexander Craike was prebendary of Clonmethan and dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, while Walter Hill was prebendary in 1561. Hill was also vicar of Lusk, and he contributed largely towards the repair of that church. In 1564, Robert Daly, prebendary of Clonmethan, was also consecrated as bishop of Kildare, and held this prebend with the vicarage of Swords in *commendam*. A letter of Queen Elizabeth I from 1564 mentions that Daly "is well commended to her for his good name and honest living, and the rather because he was well able to preach in the Irish tongue" (D'Alton 1838b, 404).

The regal visitation book of 1615 states that Clonmethan prebend had an annual value of £55 and that Thomas Richmond was the curate (Ronan 1941a, 7); the church was in good repair (Refaussé & Clark 2000, 89). In 1630, Archbishop Bulkeley's Report of the diocese of Dublin recorded that the church and chancel of Clonmethan were "upp, but not decent within" (Ronan 1941b, 69). It also noted the tithes belonged to the Richard Powell, prebend of St Patrick's Cathedral, while there were only ten to twelve parishioners and William Tedder was the vicar (*ibid.*).

In 1644, the deposition of George Cashell recorded how in September 1642, Henry Mawdesley was captured by rebels near his home in Newtown (Ní Mhurchadha 2015, 171). Mawdesley, who was clerk of the peace in Dublin and Louth, was first brought to the "Church of Clanmeddan (where there were

many other Rebels...").²⁷ He was subsequently taken to Moortown where he was hanged. The previous month, August 1642, two Protestant ministers had also been hanged at the 'English Green', Moortown, parish of Clonmethan, following their capture (*ibid.*, 176).

The Civil Survey of 1654 noted that the parish of Clonmethan was bounded with the barony of Balrothery to the east, the barony of Coolock and part of Balrothery to the south, and the barony of Balrothery to the west (Simington 1945, 152). The church was described as "out of reparaire", while in 1640, the tithes belonged to the Colledge (*ibid.*). Irish Catholics recorded in the survey included Lord Barnewall of Turvey who held 100 acres in Worganstowne and 20 acres in Oldtown (*ibid.*). The records for the subsequent Census of 1659 for the parish of 'Clonmedane' indicates there were twelve people in 'Clonmeathan', of which five were English and seven Irish (Pender 1939, 382). Twenty-eight people were recorded in Oldtown, comprising two English and 26 Irish (*ibid.*, 383).

The estate map: *The Plot of Clonmeathan, jordans Towne, Mooretowne, Oldtowne, Kileene and the Glebeland in the Parish of Clonmeathan, in ye Barony of Nrthercross, County Dublin made by john Turmor in 1656*, shows the holdings of the archbishop of Dublin in the parish of Clonmethan (Refaussé & Clark 2000, 49). The colour coded map shows a house on the glebe land and a cluster of small houses in Oldtown; Clonmethan Church is marked with a cross (*ibid.*). Turmor also depicted Killeen Castle and houses in Mooretown, Cabragh, Jordanstown and 'Begg's land', while Westpalstown, Wyanstown, Fieldtown and Balrothery are also shown (*ibid.*).

In 1667, the archbishop of Dublin had a grant of fifty acres plantation in Clonmethan, with various other lands in augmentation of his see. In 1675, the parishes of Clonmethan, Balmadun, Falmerstown, Grenogue, Westpalstown, and Ballyboghil were united as the prebend of Clonmethan in St Patrick's Cathedral by act of council (Lewis 1837b, 371–72). The bishop of Killaloe, Henry Rider was buried at Clonmethan Church in 1695, while the Reverend Edmund Murphy was returned as a Catholic pastor for the parish in 1697 (D'Alton 1838b, 406).

In 1716, Archbishop King, by virtue of a power vested in him by an act of parliament, granted to the prebendary of Clonmethan and his successors the following lands as a glebe: "the five-acre park with garden and cabin adjoining; the two-acre park, and four acres and a half adjoining to the five-acre park, and the rest of Begge's land, being eight acres and a half, all lying near the Church of Clonmethan, for an annual rate to the archbishop of £1 10s" (D'Alton 1838b, 406). John Grattan was installed into

²⁷ Available at: <https://1641.tcd.ie/index.php/deposition/?deplD=810025r039> [Accessed: 11.10.23].

the prebend in 1720. In the same year, Dr Harrison built a glebe house here for £800, for which he obtained a certificate from the archbishop.

4.1.5 Modern Period (AD1800–present)

The construction of the present St Mary's Church, which was erected c.1818, was funded by £250 parish cess and a loan of £500 from the Board of First Fruits (Walsh 1888, 244–45). The building of churches of various denominations was a marked feature in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The Board of First Fruits (1711–1830), which flourished in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, financed the construction of many of the Church of Ireland churches in Fingal.²⁸ These were typically simple Gothic Revival structures often with a tower at the west-end, as is evident in St Mary's Church. Furthermore, the churches were often built on much older church sites and many incorporated medieval fabric (FCC 2008, Vol. 1, 14).

The village of Oldtown is an example of a 'Chapel Village', which stemmed from the widespread investment in church building following the re-emergence of institutional Catholicism in the late eighteenth century (FCC 2012, 5). Oldtown Church, which was built in 1827 at a cost of £300 (Lewis 1837, 372), became the focal point for the village and attracted other local services such as a national school, dispensary, forge and Oldtown Hall (RPS 0901; NIAH 11320011) built c.1880²⁹ (Plate 3 and Figure 3). A new Catholic church was built in the village in the 1962 (NIAH 11320012);³⁰ and the former chapel was demolished in the 1990s and replaced with houses.

In 1837, Lewis noted there was a limestone quarry in the parish of Clonmethan and that a great quantity of corn was grown there (Lewis 1837, 371). He also recorded that T. Radcliff was the reverend in residence at the Glebe house; the Glebe house was constructed in 1817 with the aid of a gift of £100 and a loan of £1,350 from the Board of the First Fruits (*ibid.*, 371–72). At this time, the glebe lands consisted of 35 acres, while the gross revenue of the prebend of Clonmethan was £638, with tithes of £270 (*ibid.*, 372). Lewis described St Mary's as "a neat church", he also noted that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners had recently granted £175 towards the repair of the church (*ibid.*).

In the twentieth century, Oldtown was the first town in Ireland to benefit from the Rural Electrification Scheme run by the Electricity Supply Board from 1946–79. The first electricity pole was erected at

²⁸ <https://www.dia.ie/architects/view/4371/FIRSTFRUITS-BOARDOF> [Accessed: 10.11.23].

²⁹ <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320011/oldtown-hall-oldtown-ba-w-by-oldtown> [Accessed: 10.11.23].

³⁰ <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320012/oldtown-roman-catholic-church-oldtown-ba-w-by-oldtown> [Accessed: 10.11.23].

Kilsallaghan in November 1946 and the first switch-on was in Oldtown in January 1947 (FCC 2012, 6). On 25 June 2022, a monument to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Rural Electrification Scheme was unveiled in Oldtown village.

4.2 Cartographical Analysis

4.2.1 *'The Countie of Leinster with the Citie Dublin Described', John Speed (1610)*

John Speed's map of 'The Countie of Leinster...',³¹ published in 1610, is one of five sets of proof maps prepared as part of 'The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine' which was published in 1611–12. The map shows 'Fyngall' and includes key topographic features such as the offshore islands of Lambay, 'Irlandes ey', 'Skires' and 'Rock Abill', as well as the Bracken River, the Ballyboghil River, the Broadmeadow and the River Ward (Figure 17).

Speed also annotated the Fingal settlements of 'Sword', 'B. Baghill' (Ballyboghil), 'Gralough' (Grallagh), 'Nayle' (Naul) and Lusk, in addition to some buildings, likely castles and churches. Clonmethan is not named; however, churches are depicted to the east of Ballyboghil that may represent the medieval parish churches at Westpalstown (RMP DU007-008001-), Grallagh (RMP DU007-001001-), and Clonmethan (RMP DU007-006001-).

4.2.2 *The Down Survey Maps (1656–58)*

The Down Survey maps (c.1656–58) were drawn up to measure Catholic Irish lands to be forfeited in the aftermath of the 1641 Rebellion and the subsequent Confederate Wars. The map of 'The Barony of Nethercross in the County of Dublin', which was drafted by Thomas West and Henry Wilson, includes the 'Parish of Clomedon'.³² Clonmethan church and graveyard are depicted on the map with 'Oldtonne Colledg Land' to the south and 'Moortonne Colledg Land' to the southwest.

The accompanying map for 'The Parishes of Finglasse, Clonmedon, part of Lusk Parrish in Several parcells',³³ which was also drafted by Thomas West and Henry Wilson, depicts Clonmethan in more detail (Figure 18). The map shows Clonmethan church and graveyard with the River Daws to the north and 'Oldtowne' to the southeast.

³¹ Available at: <https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/PR-ATLAS-00002-00061-00001/38> [Accessed: 11.10.23].

³² Available at: <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php#bm=Nethercross&c=Dublin> [Accessed: 11.10.23].

³³ Available at: <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php#bm=Nethercross&c=Dublin&p=Finglasse+Lusk+and+Clonmedon> [Accessed: 11.10.23].

4.2.3 *'An Actual Survey of the County of Dublin', John Rocque (1760)*

Roque's survey of County Dublin from 1760 shows the parish of 'Clonmedon' within a network of fields under pasture and tillage, with the Oldtown Branch of the Ballyboghil River to the north and the Daws River to the south (Figure 5).³⁴ Clonmethan church is depicted as a sub-rectangular building that occurs in association with a number of buildings and formal gardens to the east and south, and is bounded by the road to Naul to the west. The village of 'Old Town' comprises a scattered layout of buildings that are arranged around a chapel and the meeting of four roads.

4.2.4 *Ordnance Survey First-Edition Six-Inch Map (1836)*

The first-edition OS six-inch map that includes Glebe, Clonmethan and Oldtown, as well as the other townlands in the study area, was surveyed in 1836 and published in 1843.³⁵ St Mary's Church is shown within a sub-rectangular enclosure to the east of the present R122 road (Figure 19). A gate lodge, which is no longer extant, is sited at the eastern end of an avenue that leads northeast to the glebe house and also connects to the church and graveyard to the northwest. Three linear outbuildings are located to the west and west-northwest of the glebe house and the structures are screened to the north, east and south by a mix of broadleaved and coniferous trees. A road also leads southeast to east from the present R122 to the rear of the glebe.

Browns Cross House (NIAH 11320002) is shown c.940m to the northwest of St Mary's Church, while the former gate lodge associated with Wyanstown House (NAIH 11320001) is located c.750m to the north-northeast. The ringfort in Leastown (RMP DU007-007----; RPS 0148), c.925m to the northeast of the church, is labelled 'Fort' and is shown as a circular enclosure with a number of broadleaved trees.

To the southeast, the village of Oldtown comprises a nucleus of dwellings grouped around the Roman Catholic chapel, which was built in 1827, as well as a dispensary and two roads, which all lie to the north and west of the Daws River. A series of quarries are also shown to the east of the village.

4.2.5 *Ordnance Survey First-Edition 25-Inch Map (1906)*

The first-edition OS 25-inch map for Glebe and the surrounding townlands was surveyed in 1906 and published in 1908.³⁶ St Mary's Church and the graveyard are both annotated, while the Oldtown

³⁴ Available at: <https://digitalcollections.tcd.ie/concern/works/mg74qp03f?locale=en> [Accessed: 11.10.23].

³⁵ Sheet DN007. Available at: <https://osi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=bc56a1cf08844a2aa2609aa92e89497e> [Accessed: 11.10.23].

³⁶ Sheet DN007-005. Available at: <https://osi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=bc56a1cf08844a2aa2609aa92e89497e> [Accessed: 11.10.23].

Branch of the Ballyboghil River is shown c.60m to the north of the church (Figure 20). Glebe House is also named, and the outbuildings shown on the OS six-inch map are still extant. The formal grounds now include a walled garden to the south of the house and southeast of the church. There is a lodge on the southwestern perimeter of the walled garden, to the south of the avenue to the glebe, the gate lodge depicted on the OS six-inch map is no longer extant. A well is shown c.100m to the south of the lodge and west of the present R122 road.

To the northwest, Browns-cross House is still in evidence, and is now sited c.180m to the south of the formal Cottrelstown House (NIAH 11320002). The lodge leading to Wyanstown House is also extant, while ringfort DU007-007---- in Leastown is shown as a raised circular platform. The OS 25-inch map shows the Roman Catholic church and dispensary in Oldtown; however, the quarries are no longer in use. A smithy is indicated in the eastern part of the village, while a ford and stepping stones are indicated across the Daws River to the southwest

4.3 Recorded Archaeological Sites and Monuments

Three Recorded Monuments occur within a 1km radius of the site (Table 3; Figure 4 ; Appendix 1). These consist of an early medieval ringfort in Browns-cross (RMP No. DU007-005---), an enclosure site of uncertain date in Leastown (RMP No. DU007-007---; RPS Ref. 0148) and a possible earthwork site in Oldtown (DU007-022---).

The precise location of the levelled earthwork is uncertain, beyond that it was sited on 'Dun Hill', near the former Oldtown Post Office. It is listed as a 'Burial' in the SMR and will not be included in the next revision of the RMP. However, an assemblage of Bronze Age artefacts was recovered from the monument in the eighteenth century, which occurred in association with cremated human bone (see Section 4.4.1). Another enclosure, which is listed in the SMR, is located in the townland of Wyanstown (DU007-056----).

Table 3: Recorded archaeological sites within a 1km radius of the site

SMR/RMP No.	Site Type	Designation	Townland	ITM	Distance
DU007-005---	Enclosure	Recorded Monument; listed in the SMR	Browns-cross	710802, 754855	41m
DU007-006001-	Church	Recorded Monument; listed in the SMR	Glebe	711120, 754580	0m
DU007-006002-	Graveyard	Recorded Monument; listed in the SMR	Glebe	711120, 754580	0m
DU007-007---	Ringfort – unclassified	Recorded Monument; Protected Structure; listed in the SMR	Leastown	711826, 755242	960m

SMR/RMP No.	Site Type	Designation	Townland	ITM	Distance
DU007-022---	Earthwork site possible	Recorded Monument; listed in the SMR	Oldtown	N/A	555m
DU007-056----	Enclosure	Listed in the SMR	Wyanstown	711544, 755501	1km

4.4 Previous Archaeological Investigations

No archaeological excavations have been undertaken in the townland of Glebe (Figure 4). However, archaeological testing³⁷ and monitoring³⁸ was carried out at O'Brien's Lane in the village of Oldtown (Licence Nos. 06E0913 and 07E0728), c.565m to the southeast of St Mary's Church (Table 4 & Appendix 2). The development site was located in proximity to the possible earthwork site (DU007-022---); no archaeological remains were uncovered (Dennehy 2006; Keith & Kerins 2008).

Table 4: Archaeological investigations within a 1km radius of the site

Licence No.	DIER Ref	Townland	Site Type	ITM	Distance
06E0913	2006:687	Oldtown	No archaeology found	710802, 754855	565m
07E0728	2007:533	Oldtown	No archaeology found	711120, 754580	565m

A gradiometer survey was undertaken of five fields in Oldtown, c.900m to the south-southeast of the site.³⁹ A previously unrecorded former field system and rectilinear enclosure were identified, in addition to two areas of burning that were suggestive of prehistoric burnt spreads (Leigh & Curran 2020, 6).

4.5 Topographical Files

No archaeological objects are recorded in the NMI Topographical Files from Glebe townland. However, a copper alloy seal matrix (NMI Reg. 37:30:1) and wax seal impression (NMI Reg. 37:30:2) of uncertain date are recorded from Clonmethan in the files. The seal matrix and red wax impression are of the Delegate Commissary and Vicar Apostolic of the Kingdom of Ireland. The seal includes the initials FAC in the body of the device, which stand for the owner; a Franciscan, as denoted by crossed arms (Armstrong 1912, 473). The crossed arms are found on all seals of the Franciscan Order and when painted, one is represented as naked and the other with a brown sleeve; the former being symbolical

³⁷ DIER Ref. 2006:687. Available at: <http://excavations.ie/report/2006/Dublin/0015431/> [Accessed: 23.05.23].

³⁸ DIER Ref. 2007:533. Available at: <http://excavations.ie/report/2007/Dublin/0017509/> [Accessed: 23.05.23].

³⁹ Licence No. 20-R-0094, Geophysical Survey Report available at: https://heritagemaps.ie/documents/Therefore_ArchaeologyReports/GeophysicalReports/20R0094_1.pdf [Accessed: 23.05.23].

of the arms of Christ and the latter of that of St Francis (*ibid.*). The find place and circumstances of discovery of the two artefacts are unknown.

The Wakeman Collection and Topographical Files notes that two uncontexted Bronze Age objects were recovered from a rath (RMP DU007-022----) at 'Dun Hill' in Oldtown. They consisted of a ceramic mortuary vessel (NMI Reg. 2513:Wk030) that was inverted over a cremated human remains and a double-edged bronze dagger (NMI Reg. 2514:Wk031). The low earthwork, which was levelled, was possibly located at the site of the former Oldtown Post Office, c.555m southeast of the site.

4.6 Designated Built Heritage

The former Glebe House (also known as Clonmethan Glebe), which is located c.90m to the northeast of the church, is a Protected Structure (RPS 0145) and listed on the NIAH (11320003) (Figure 3). It comprises a detached three-bay two-story over basement house that was built in 1817 with a grant of £100 from the Board of First Fruits (Board of First Fruits 1815, 4). It includes a courtyard bounded by two outbuildings.⁴⁰ Clonmethan Glebe is now in private ownership.

Eight further recorded/listed built heritage sites are located within 1km of the site in the townlands of Glebe and Oldtown, which all date from the nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century (Table 5 ; Appendix 3). These include an early twentieth-century post box in Glebe (NIAH 11320005), c.45m to the south-southwest of St Mary's Church.

The built heritage sites in the village of Oldtown consist of Oldtown Church (NIAH 11320012), presbytery (NIAH 11320013) and Oldtown Village Hall (RPS 0901; NIAH 11320011), in addition to two nineteenth-century houses (NIAH 11320008 & 11320009), a nineteenth-century bridge (NIAH 11320007) and a late-nineteenth/early-twentieth century water pump (NIAH 11320010).

Table 5: Designated built heritage structures within a 1km radius of the site

RPS	NIAH	Site Type	Designation	Townland	ITM	Distance
0145	11320003	Rectory/glebe/ vicarage/curate's house	Protected Structure; listed on the NIAH	Glebe	711235, 754640	132m
0146	11320004	Church/chapel	Protected Structure; listed on the NIAH	Glebe	711120, 754580	0m
N/A	11320005	Post box	Listed on the NIAH	Glebe	711103, 754535	40m
N/A	11320007	Bridge	Listed on the NIAH	Oldtown	711691, 753988	822m

⁴⁰ Available at: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320003/clonmethan-glebe-glebe-ba-w-by-clonmethan-ed> [Accessed: 11.10.23].

RPS	NIAH	Site Type	Designation	Townland	ITM	Distance
N/A	11320008	House	Listed on the NIAH	Oldtown	711623, 754029	744m
N/A	11320009	House	Listed on the NIAH	Oldtown	711674, 754012	798m
N/A	11320010	Water pump	Listed on the NIAH	Oldtown	711698, 753979	818m
0901	11320011	Hall	Protected Structure; Listed on the NIAH	Oldtown	711665, 753979	804m
N/A	11320012	Church/chapel	Listed on the NIAH	Oldtown	711760, 753857	965m
N/A	11320013	Presbytery/ parochial/curate's house	Listed on the NIAH	Oldtown	711690, 753930	873m

5 Methodology

The CMF-funded conservation programme was managed by a multi-disciplinary team of experienced consultants, working in partnership with the Friends of Clonmethan, the Fingal Heritage Officer and the NMS. The conservation team included a Project Archaeologist, Conservation Architect and a Structural Engineer. The key objective of the stabilisation works was to repair the church, with a particular focus on the tower, to ensure the maximum retention of the historic fabric and safeguard St Mary's Church from weathering and climate change well into the future. All works aligned with best practice conservation principles.

5.1 Aims of the Archaeological Works

The key aim of the archaeological monitoring was to ensure that no archaeological remains were disturbed/adversely impacted during the conservation process and that in the event that any newly exposed features and/or fabric were uncovered, that they were fully investigated and recorded. As such, no groundworks were undertaken as part of the consolidation works due to the potential for disturbance to human remains and subsurface archaeology.

5.2 Scope of the Archaeological Works

The Project Archaeologist liaised with the conservation team and the building contractor throughout the process. The following aspects of the works were archaeologically supervised/monitored:

- removal of vegetation from the church;
- removal of loose fabric in advance of interventions;
- raking out of mortars; and
- removal of renders.

All works were undertaken following consultation with and agreement from the NMS and the Fingal Heritage Officer, who also visited the site on a number of occasions. No archaeological remains and/or objects were uncovered or disturbed during the course of the conservation works, as the works were confined to the above-ground sections of the nineteenth-century structure.

All monitoring works were carried out to best practice and in adherence with relevant guidelines and standards, including the *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* (DAHGI 1999a), *Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation* (DAHGI 1999b) and *Standards for the Care and Treatment of Archaeological Objects from Excavations* (NMI 2022).

Furthermore, all conservation works were undertaken in accordance with best conservation practice and in compliance with the following guidelines: *Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for*

Planning Authorities (DAHG 2011a),⁴¹ *The Conservation of Places of Worship* (DAHG 2011b),⁴² *Bricks: A Guide to the Repair of Historic Brickwork* (DEHLG 2009),⁴³ *Ruins: The Conservation and Repair of Masonry Ruins* (DEHLG 2010).⁴⁴ The proposed works were undertaken by skilled, experienced and competent building operatives and a Stone Mason with experience of working on historic structures.

The present report adheres to the standards set out by the NMS in *Guidelines for Authors of Reports on Archaeological Excavations* (DEHLG 2006)⁴⁵ and is in accordance with NMS's *Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation* (DAHGI 1999b).⁴⁶

5.3 Recording Methods

A full and detailed record of the archaeological monitoring and conservation works was maintained throughout by the Project Archaeologist and Conservation Architect in a site diary with daily logs. The recording included written descriptions, such as the nature of interventions and specifications of materials used, as well as photographs and drawings (e.g., Nolan 2023c).

No archaeological remains or architectural fragments were encountered during the work. However, in the event that archaeological remains or architectural fragments were revealed, they would have been recorded using customised field record sheets or 'context sheets', as well as supporting pro forma context, finds, samples, drawing and photograph registers, as detailed in the Archaeological Method Statement (Rice 2023a).

5.4 Finds Retrieval and Sampling Methods

Every effort was made to ensure the highest possible level of identification and retrieval of archaeological objects during the archaeological monitoring of conservation works. However, no finds were recovered and/or identified. If finds had been recovered that required immediate conservation, provision was made for this, as set out in the Archaeological Method Statement (Rice 2023a). No

⁴¹ Available at: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Architectural-Heritage-Protection-Guidelines-for-Planning-Authorities-2011.pdf> [Accessed: 17.10.23].

⁴² Available at: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Places-of-Worship-The-Conservation-of-Places-of-Worship-2011.pdf> [Accessed: 17.10.23].

⁴³ Available at: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Bricks-A-Guide-to-the-Repair-of-Historic-Brickwork-2009.pdf> [Accessed: 24.10.23].

⁴⁴ Available at: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Ruins-The-Conservation-and-Repair-of-Masonry-Ruins-2010.pdf> [Accessed: 17.10.23].

⁴⁵ Available at: <http://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/excavation-reports-guidelines-for-authors.pdf> [Accessed: 17.10.23].

⁴⁶ Available at: <http://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/excavation-policy-and-guidelines.pdf> [Accessed: 17.10.23].

environmental or bulk soil samples were retrieved, as no archaeologically significant deposits were found.

5.5 Weather Conditions

The weather was mixed and while predominantly dry and sunny, there were also wet and windy days.

5.6 Health & Safety

All archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the current Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations (2013). A Health and Safety plan – a project specific Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS) – was in place at the commencement of onsite services. In addition, the Conservation Architect prepared a Health & Safety Plan for the consolidation works that was also distributed to all parties (see Nolan 2023c, Appendix A).

5.7 Constraints on Methods

There were no constraints on archaeological methods during the conservation works.

6 Conclusions and Recommendations

Archaeological monitoring was carried out of consolidation works to St Mary's Church of Ireland Clonmethan, under the archaeological licence 23E0470. The conservation works were funded by the DHLGH under Stream 1 of the CMF 2023 (CMF23-1-DF004). The conservation works were carried out over a period of seven weeks, from 8 August to 29 September 2023. No potential archaeological features, deposits and/or objects were uncovered and/or impacted during the archaeologically monitored conservation works.

The key focus of the 2023 programme of conservation works was the bell tower of the nineteenth-century church. Vegetation was removed from the structure and the stonework was repointed with like-for-like mortars. The crenellations, cappings, pinnacles and loose masonry were bedded and reset and the modern blocks in the entrances to the bell tower and vestry were removed. A set of steel gates were fabricated and fitted in the two entrances, while the decayed lintels in the vestry were replaced.

As detailed in the CMP for the site (Rice 2022), the Friends of Clonmethan intend to undertake further actions to safeguard and foreground the cultural heritage of the site into the future. From a built heritage perspective, the following interventions are proposed for 2024:

- Repair and reinstatement of bell tower roof with like-for like slates.
- Conservation of first floor timber boards in ringing platform of bell tower (Plate 22). Extant sections shall be left *in situ* and the details recorded.
- Conservation of timber louvres in bell tower window (Plate 23).
- Stitch cracks in nave and vestry with a proprietary crack stitching product. Rake out and brickwork using like-for-like mortars.
- Strap or tie masonry in the northwest corner of the nave.
- Clear vegetation and rubble from floor of vestry under archaeological supervision to assess condition of floor slabs and lower section of fireplace.
- Undertake a condition survey of the historic graves in the graveyard.

The graveyard enclosure wall is in danger of collapse (see Nolan 2020 & Doyle 2022). In particular, the northeastern, eastern and southeastern sections, which are retaining a significant quantity of ground, are bulging outwards. Discussions will be undertaken with the NMS and the Fingal Heritage Officer to determine possible conservation-led interventions to stabilise the enclosing wall.

Recommendations are subject to the agreement of the NMS of the DHLGH, the Fingal Heritage Officer, the NMI and the local planning authority where required and should only be carried out in accordance with the necessary approvals. Please note that the statutory and local authorities may issue alternative and/or additional recommendations/conditions.

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Figures

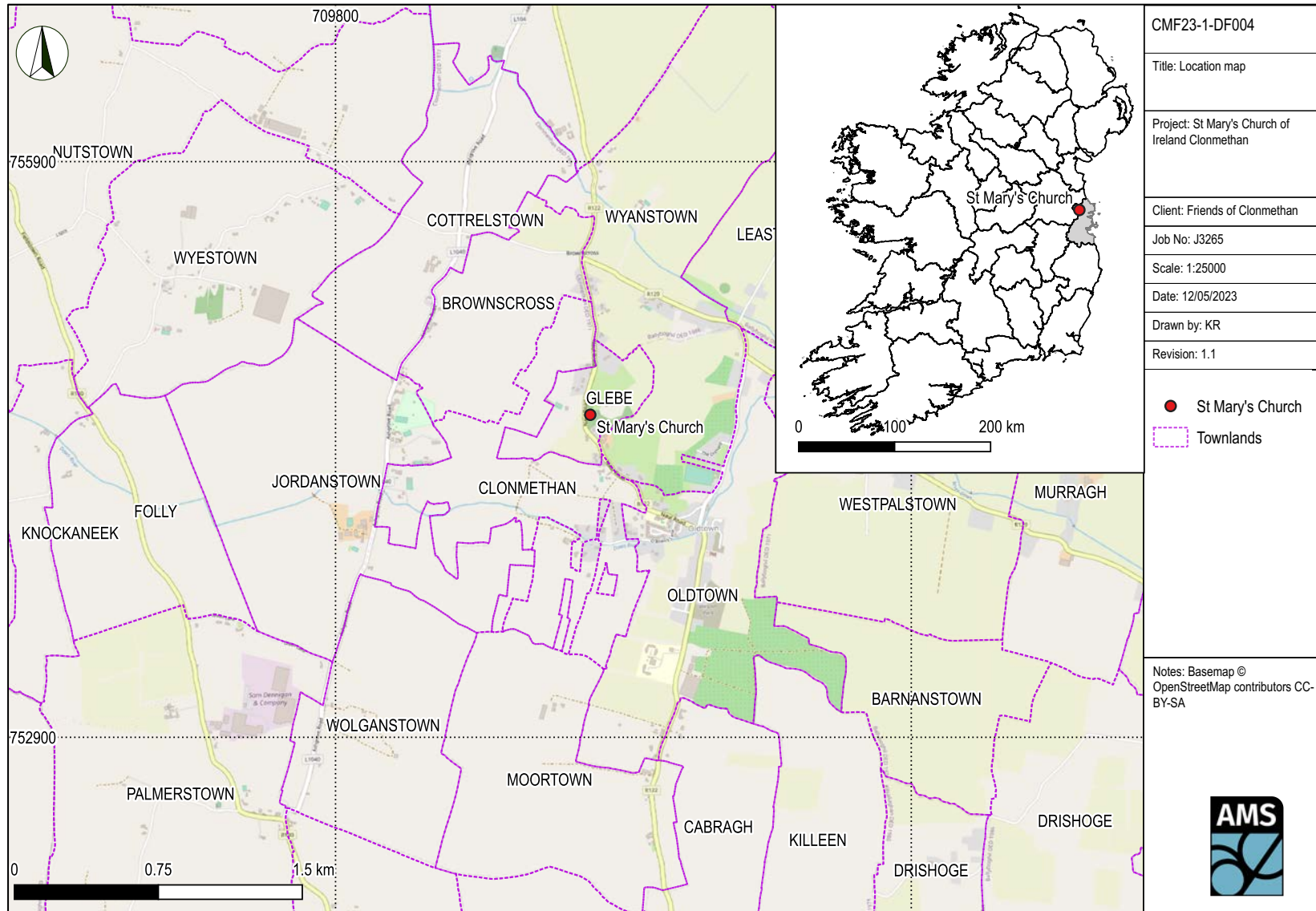


Figure 1: Location map.



Figure 2: Aerial overview of site.

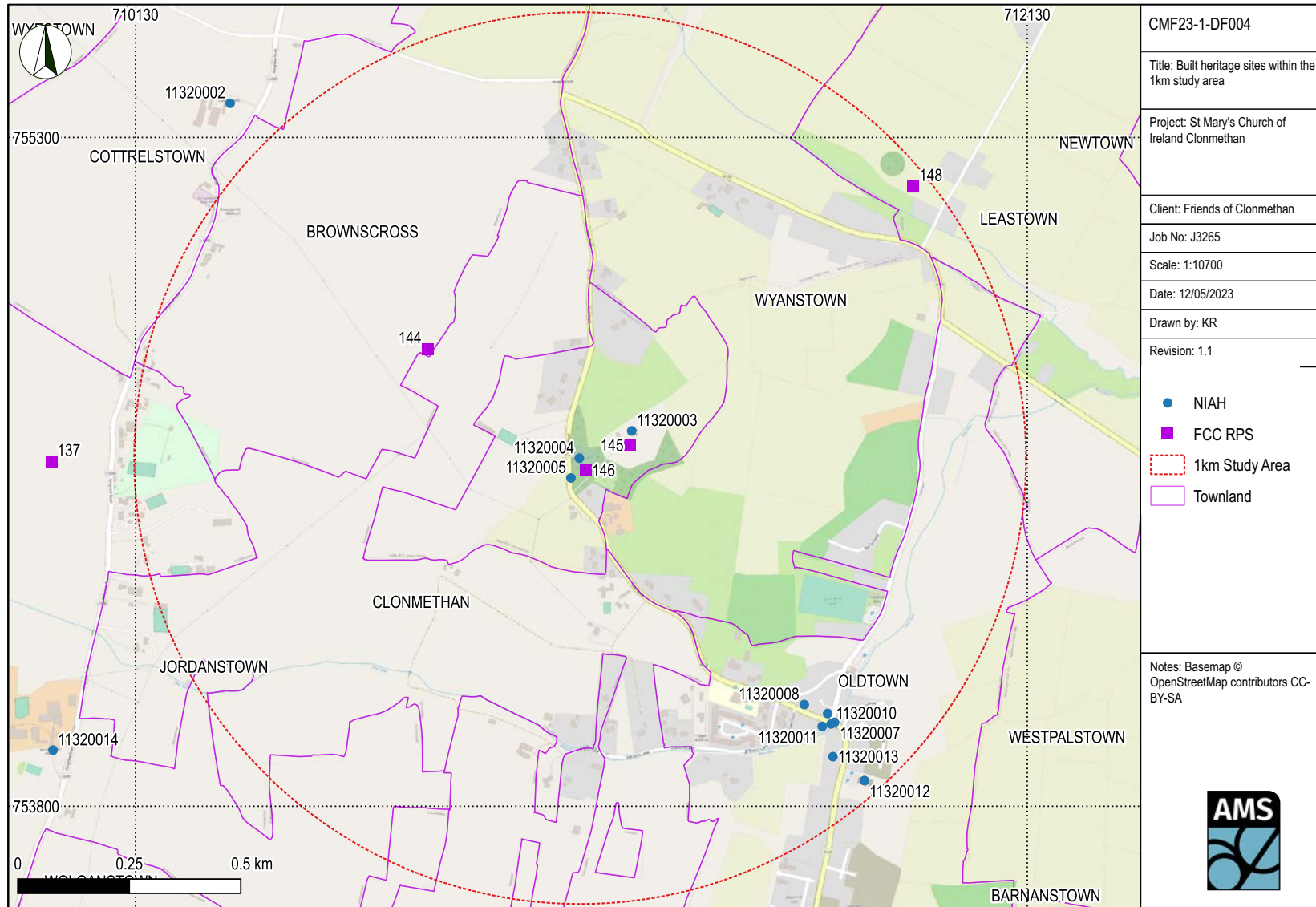


Figure 3: Built heritage sites within the 1km study area.

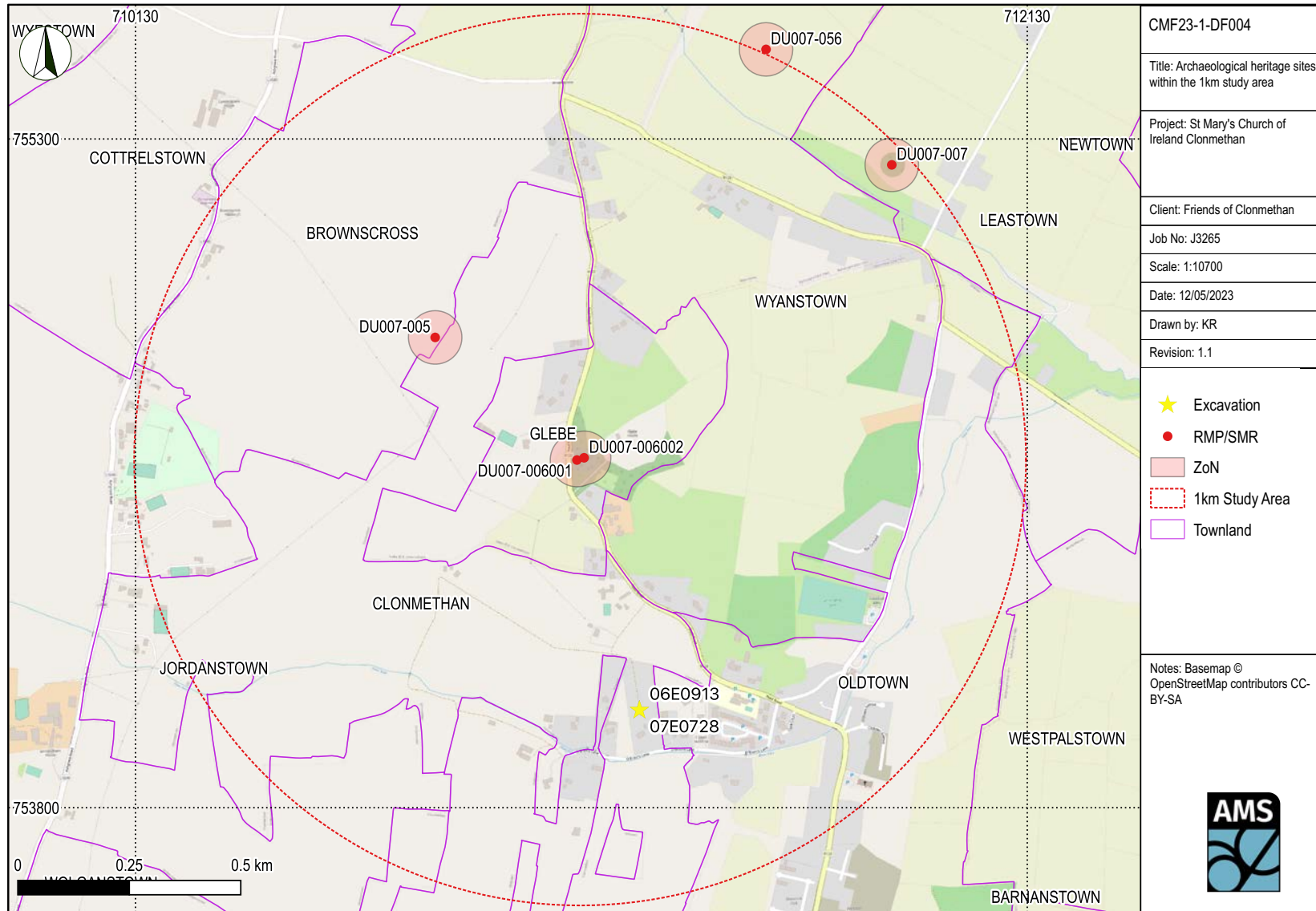


Figure 4: Archaeological heritage sites within the 1km study area.



Figure 5: Extract from 'An Actual Survey of the County of Dublin', by John Rocque (1760).⁴⁷
Clonmethan parish church is encircled in red.

⁴⁷ Available at: <https://digitalcollections.tcd.ie/concern/works/mg74qp03f?locale=en> [Accessed: 23.05.23].

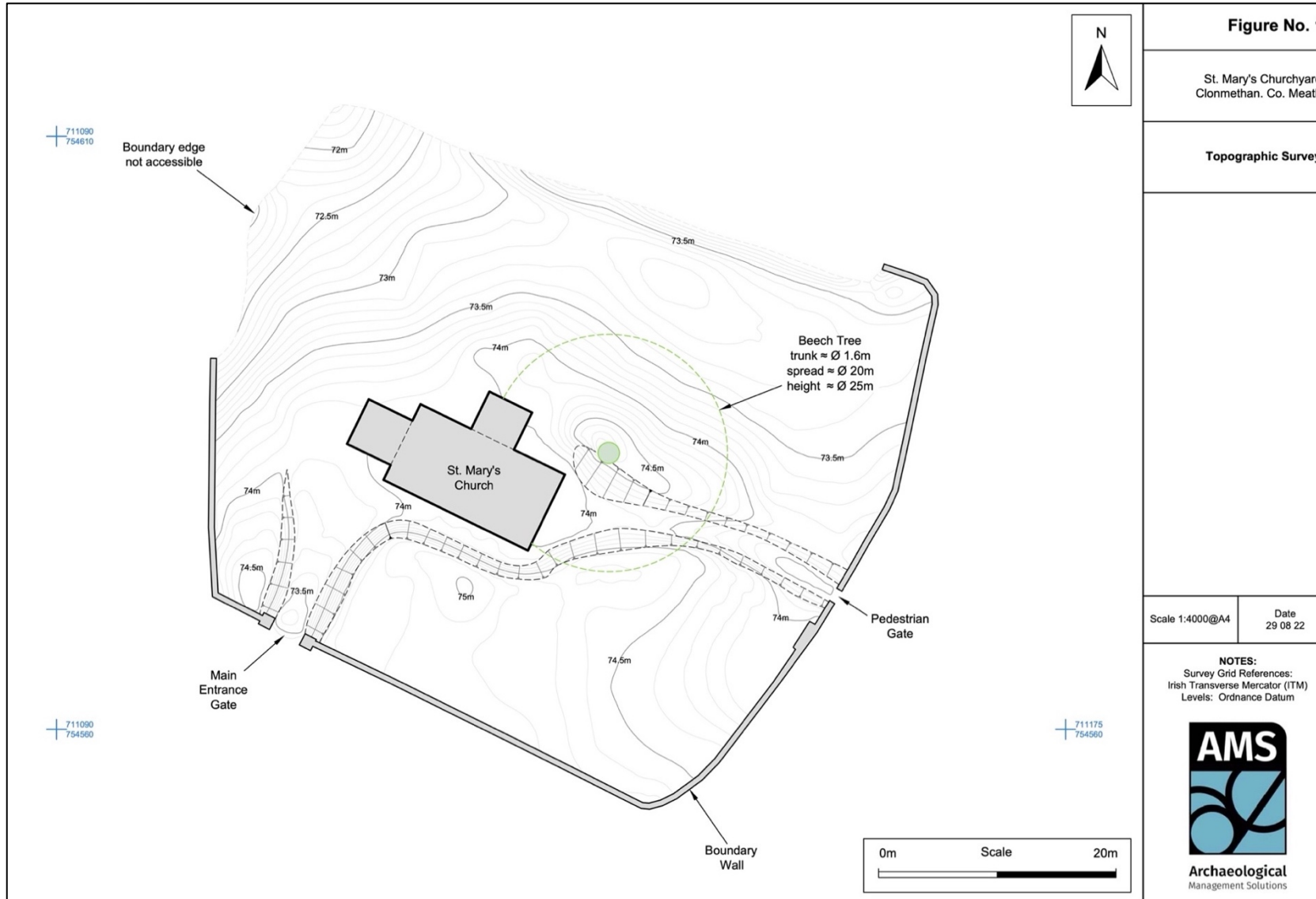


Figure 6: Topographic survey of St Mary's Church and graveyard that was carried out as part of the CMP for the site (Rice 2022).

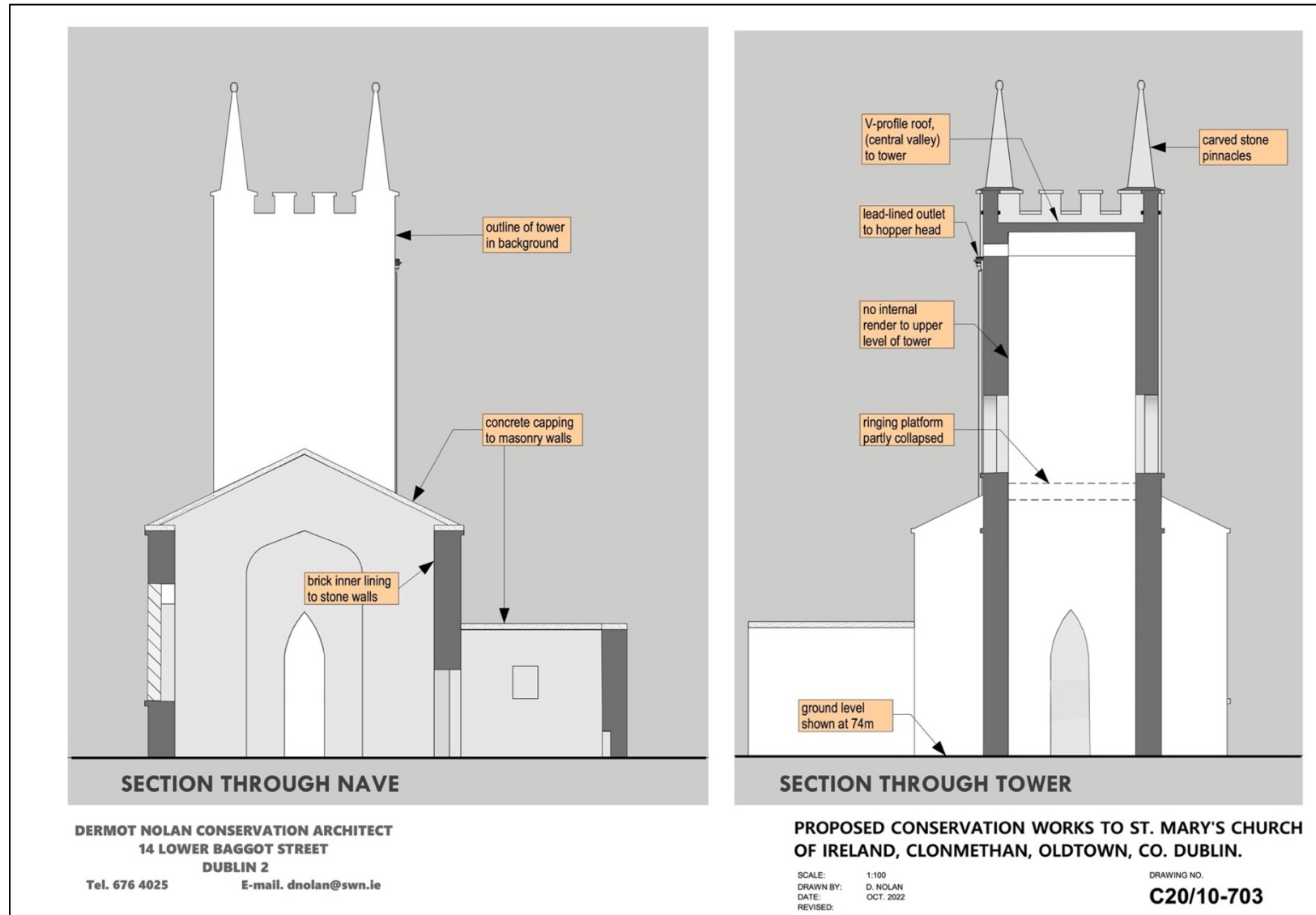


Figure 7: Condition of nave and bell tower of St Mary's Church (drawing produced by Conservation Architect for the CMP).

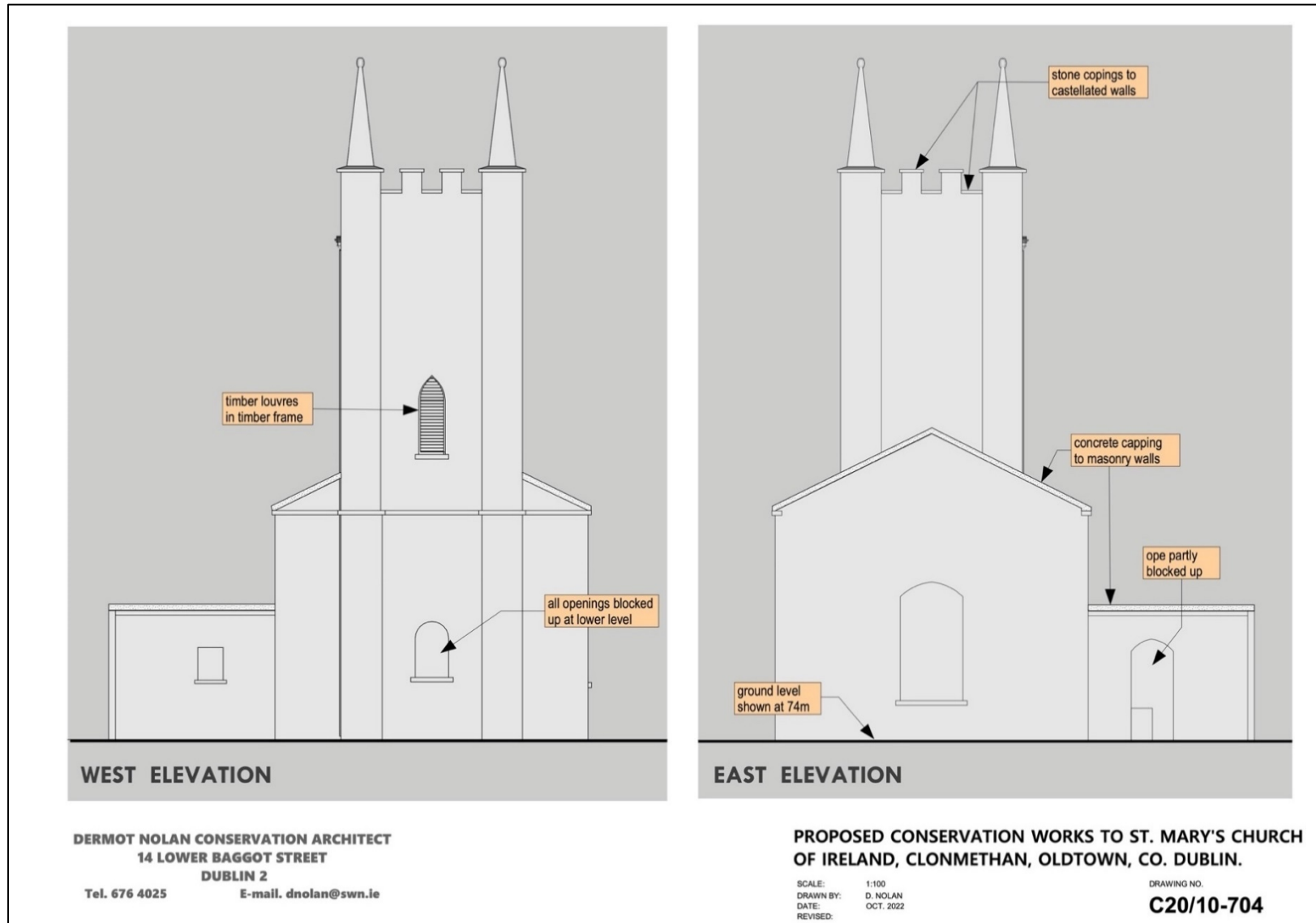


Figure 8: Condition of east and west elevations of St Mary's Church (drawing produced by Conservation Architect for the CMP).

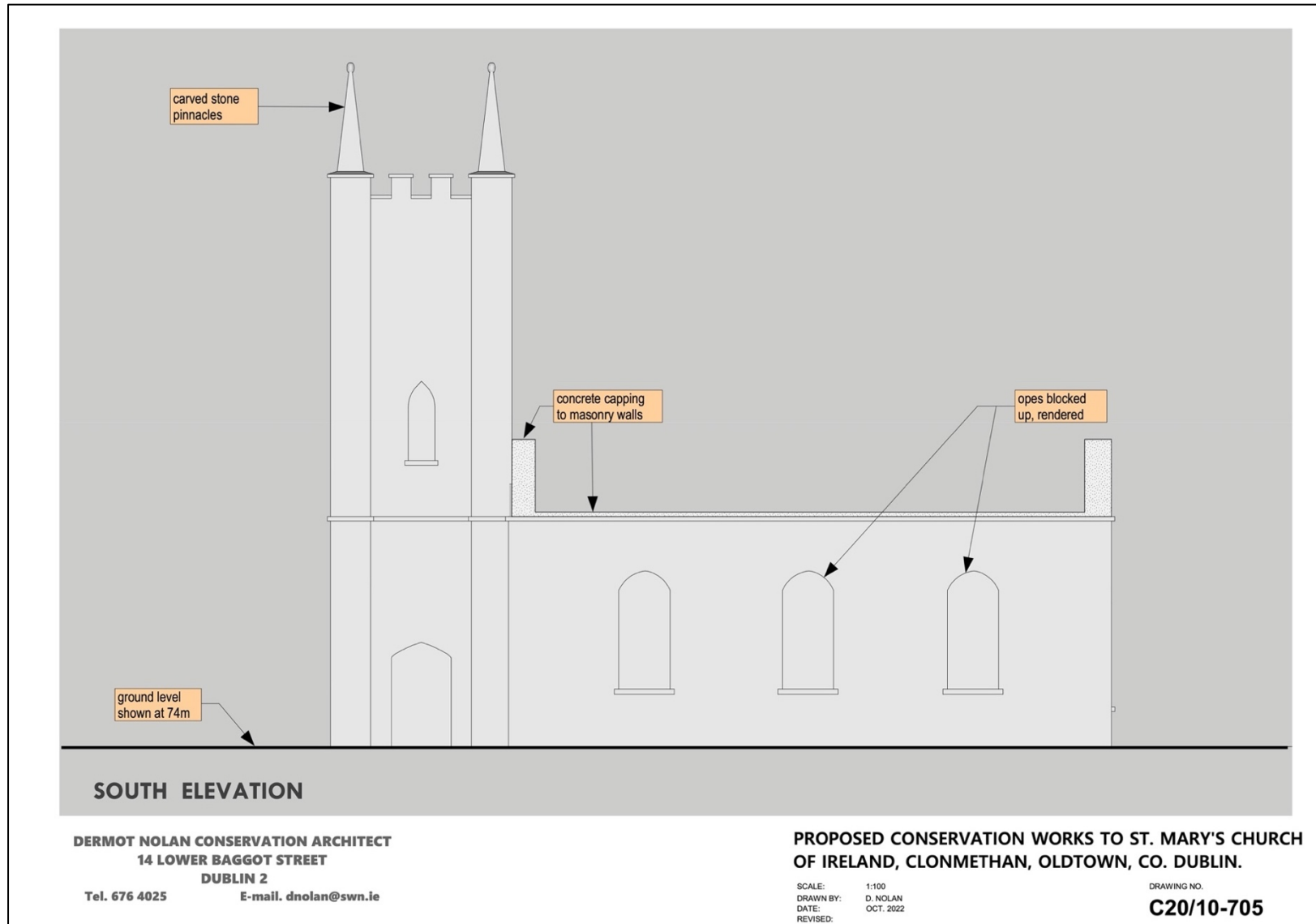


Figure 9: Condition of south elevation of St Mary's Church (drawing produced by Conservation Architect for the CMP).

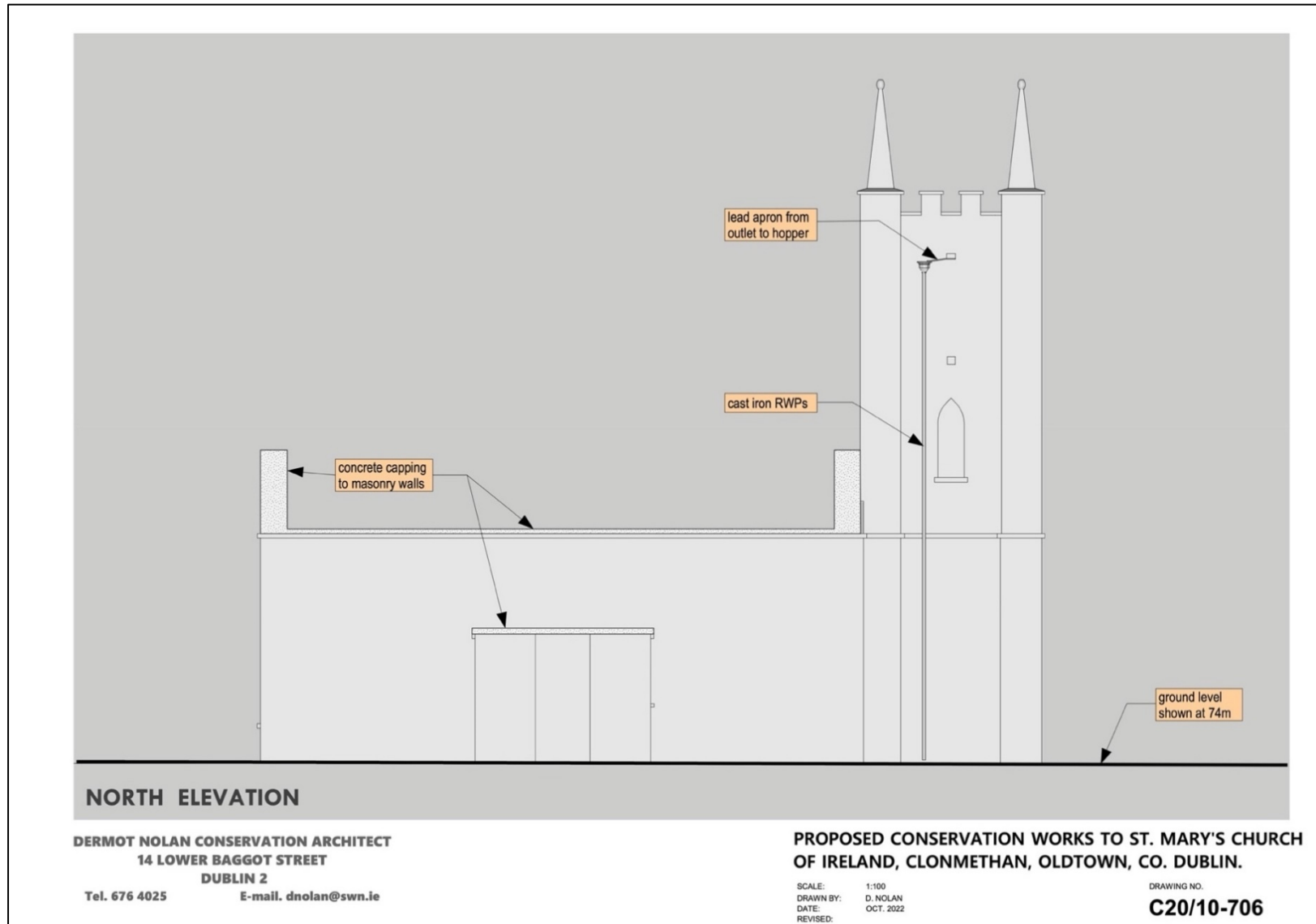


Figure 10: Condition of north elevation of St Mary's Church (drawing produced by Conservation Architect for the CMP).

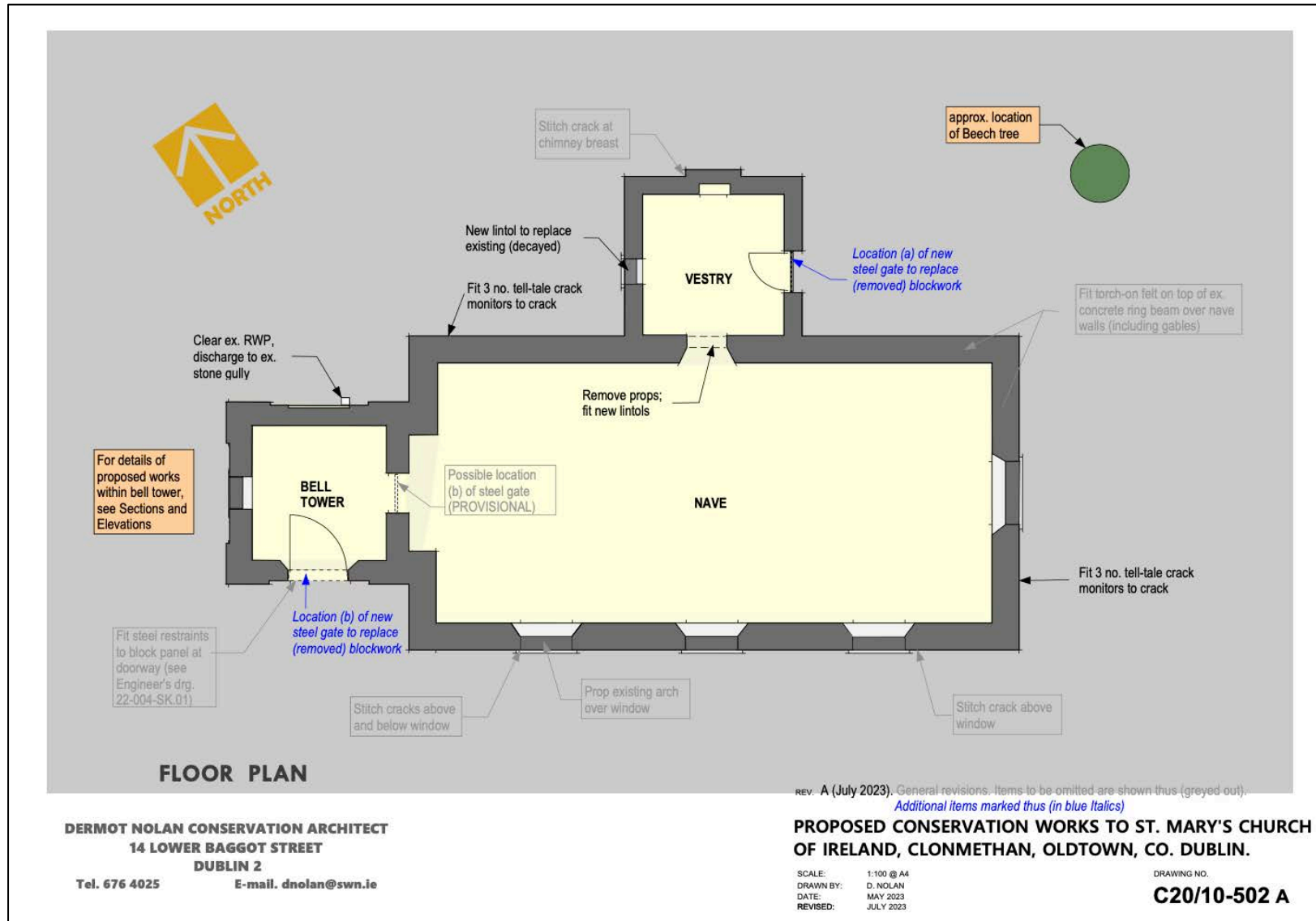


Figure 11: Floor plan of church with details of conservation interventions (Nolan 2023a).

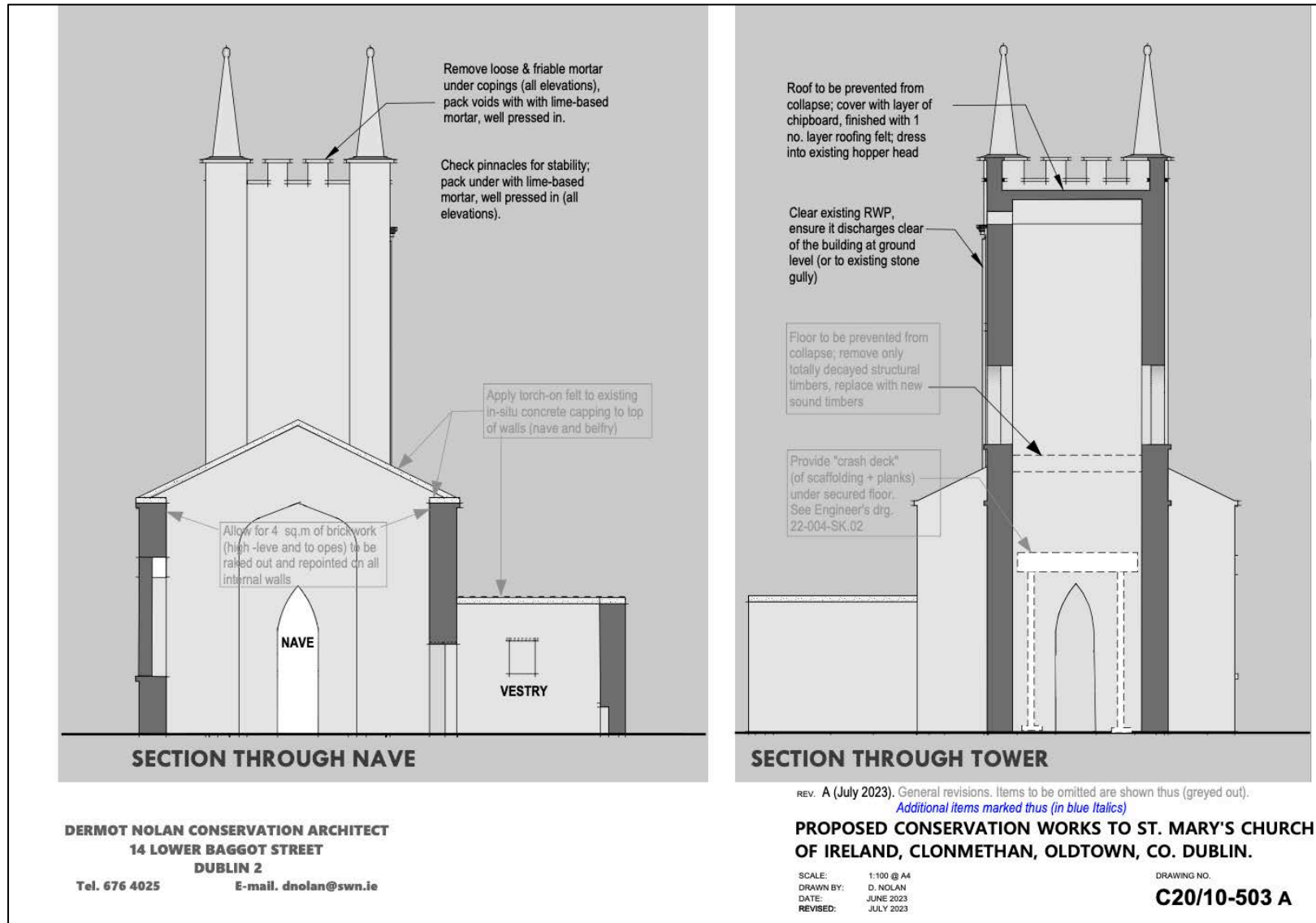


Figure 12: Sections through nave and bell tower with details of conservation interventions (Nolan 2023a).

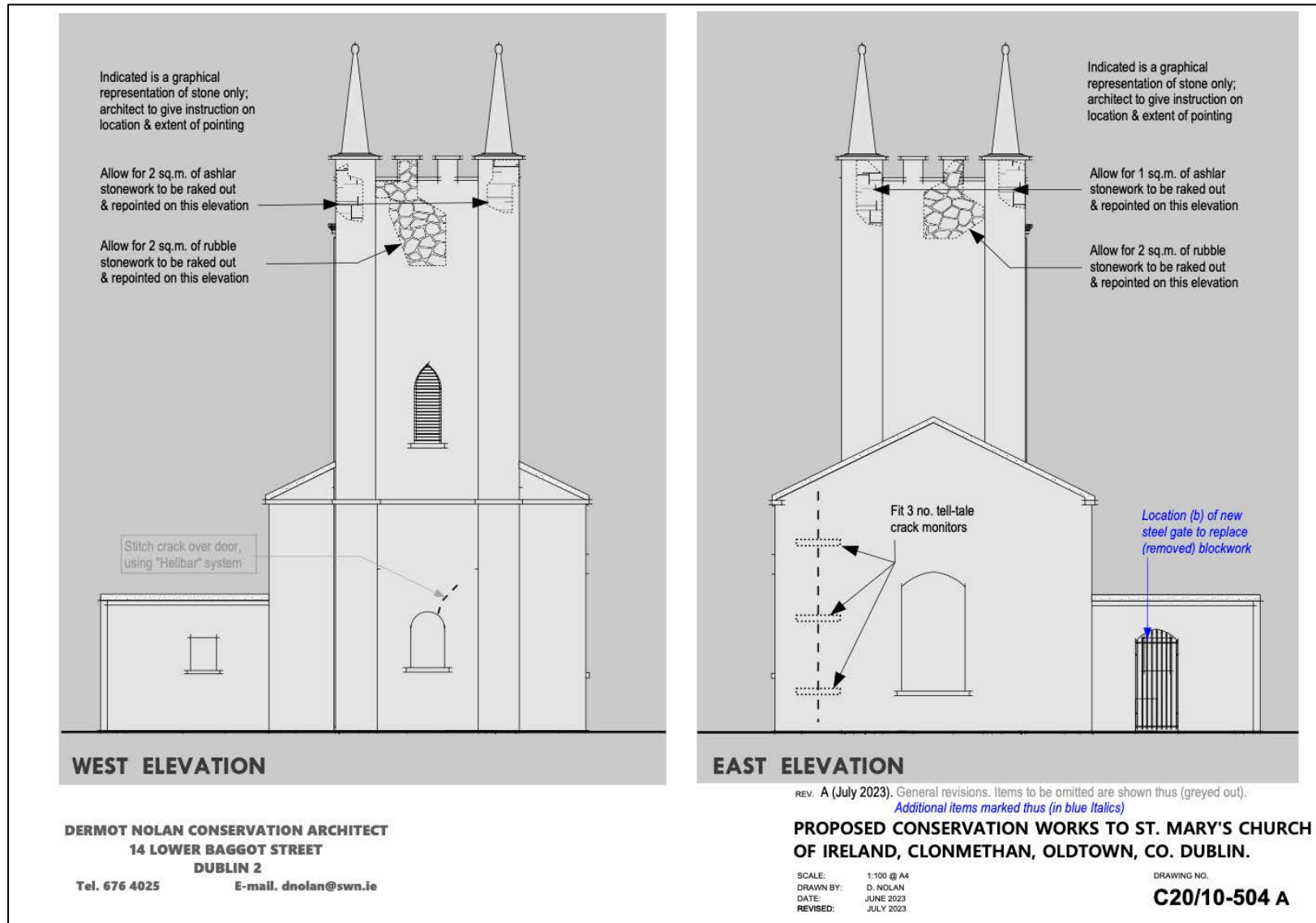


Figure 13: East and west elevations with details of conservation interventions (Nolan 2023a).

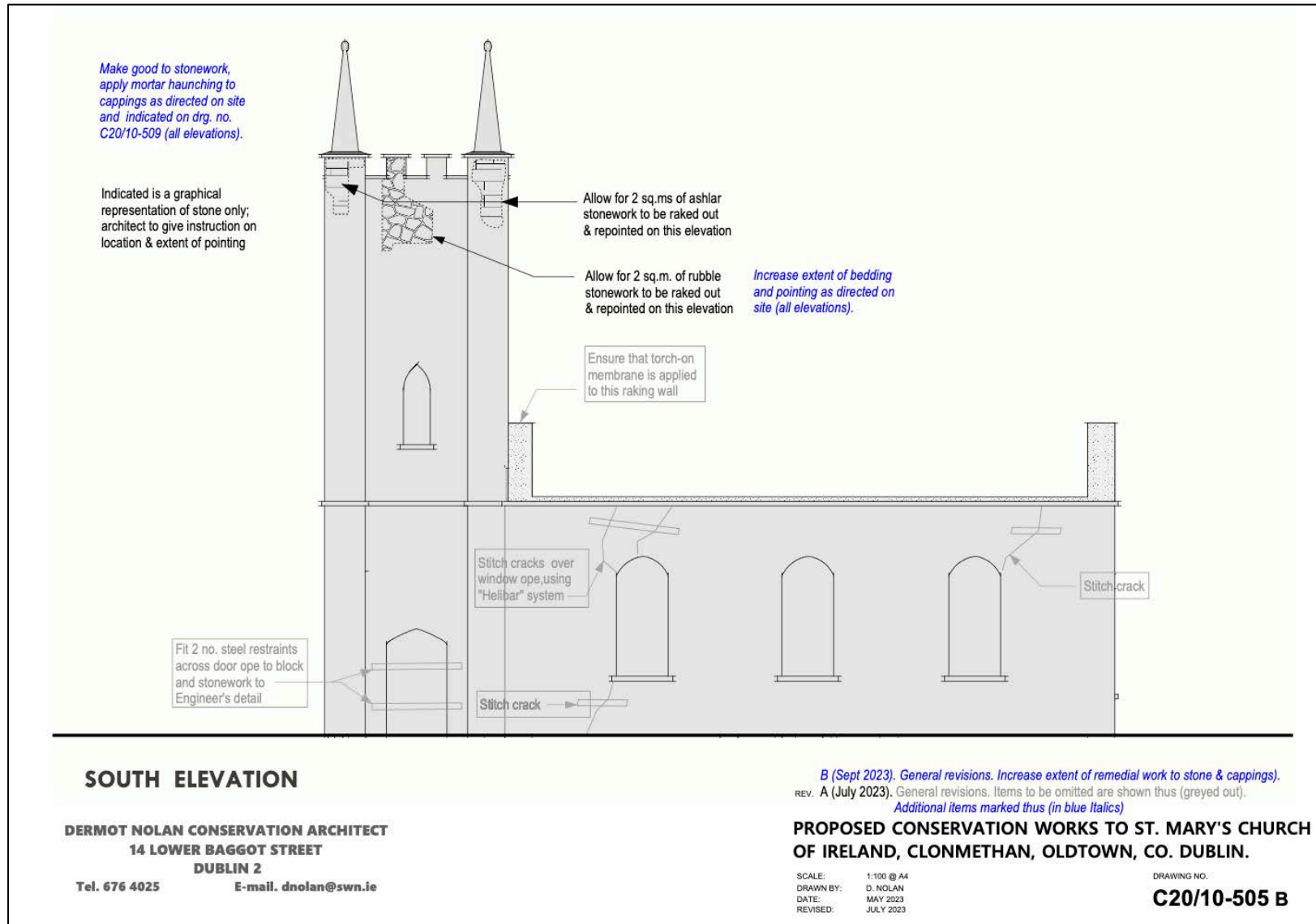


Figure 14: South elevation with details of conservation interventions (Nolan 2023a).

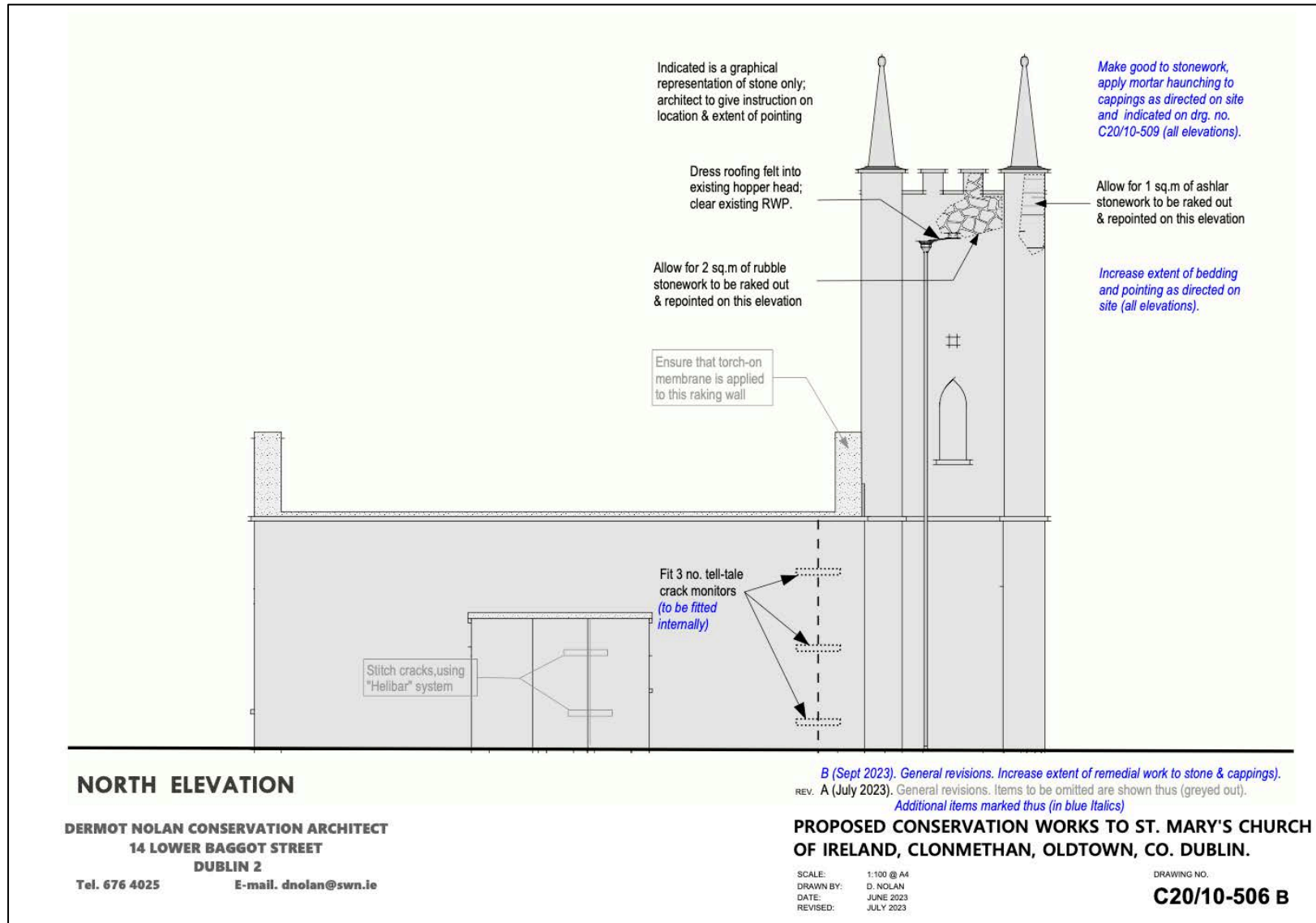


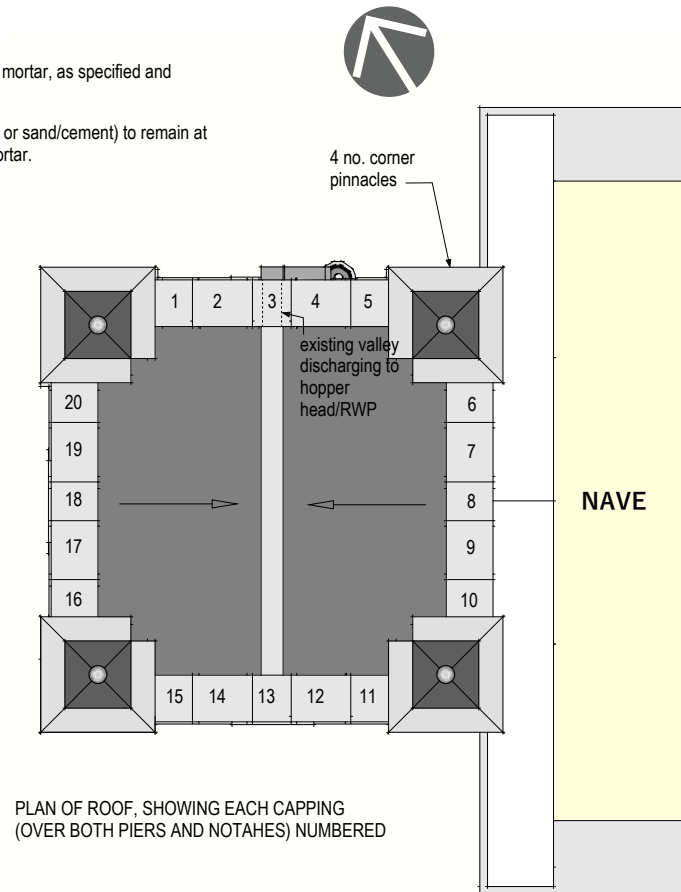
Figure 15: North elevation with details of conservation interventions (Nolan 2023a).

1. Do nothing.
2. Add mortar capping to back of pier.
3. **Remove sand/cement topping; add 25mm lime render.**
4. Add mortar capping to back of pier.
5. Re-bed cappings.
6. Remove sand/cement topping; add 25mm lime render.
7. Leave capping; haunch with lime mortar to rear.
8. Where sand/cement has loosened, fill gap with mortar.
9. Haunch front right corner, where loose brick has been removed.
10. Haunch front right corner, where loose brick has been removed.
11. Do nothing.
12. Leave capping; point l/h and r/h sides with mortar.
13. Do nothing.
14. Leave capping; point rear left corner.
15. Do nothing.
16. Point front, at junction of ex. sand/cement capping.
17. Apply mortar haunching at back of pier; point to l/h side.
18. Do nothing.
19. Apply mortar haunching at back of pier; point to l/h side.
20. Apply mortar haunching to front of pier, to complete capping.

NOTES.

All references to mortar shall mean lime mortar, as specified and noted in Method Statement.

No small pieces of material (stone, brick or sand/cement) to remain at cappings; all to be replaced with lime mortar.



PROPOSED TREATMENT OF CAPPING STONES TO CRENNELATIONS TO TOWER

DERMOT NOLAN CONSERVATION ARCHITECT
 14 LOWER BAGGOT STREET
 DUBLIN 2
 Tel. 676 4025 E-mail. info@swn.ie

PROPOSED CONSERVATION WORKS TO CHURCH OF ST. MARY'S, CLONMETHAN, OLDTOWN, CO. DUBLIN.

SCALE: 1:50
 DRAWN BY: D. NOLAN
 DATE: SEPT. 2023

DRAWING NO. **C20/10-509**

Figure 16: Treatment of capping stones and crenellations in bell tower (Nolan 2023b).



Figure 17: Extract from 'The Countie of Leinster...', by John Speed (1610).⁴⁸ The general area of the site is encircled in red.

⁴⁸ Available at: <https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/PR-ATLAS-00002-00061-00001/38> [Accessed: 19.10.23].

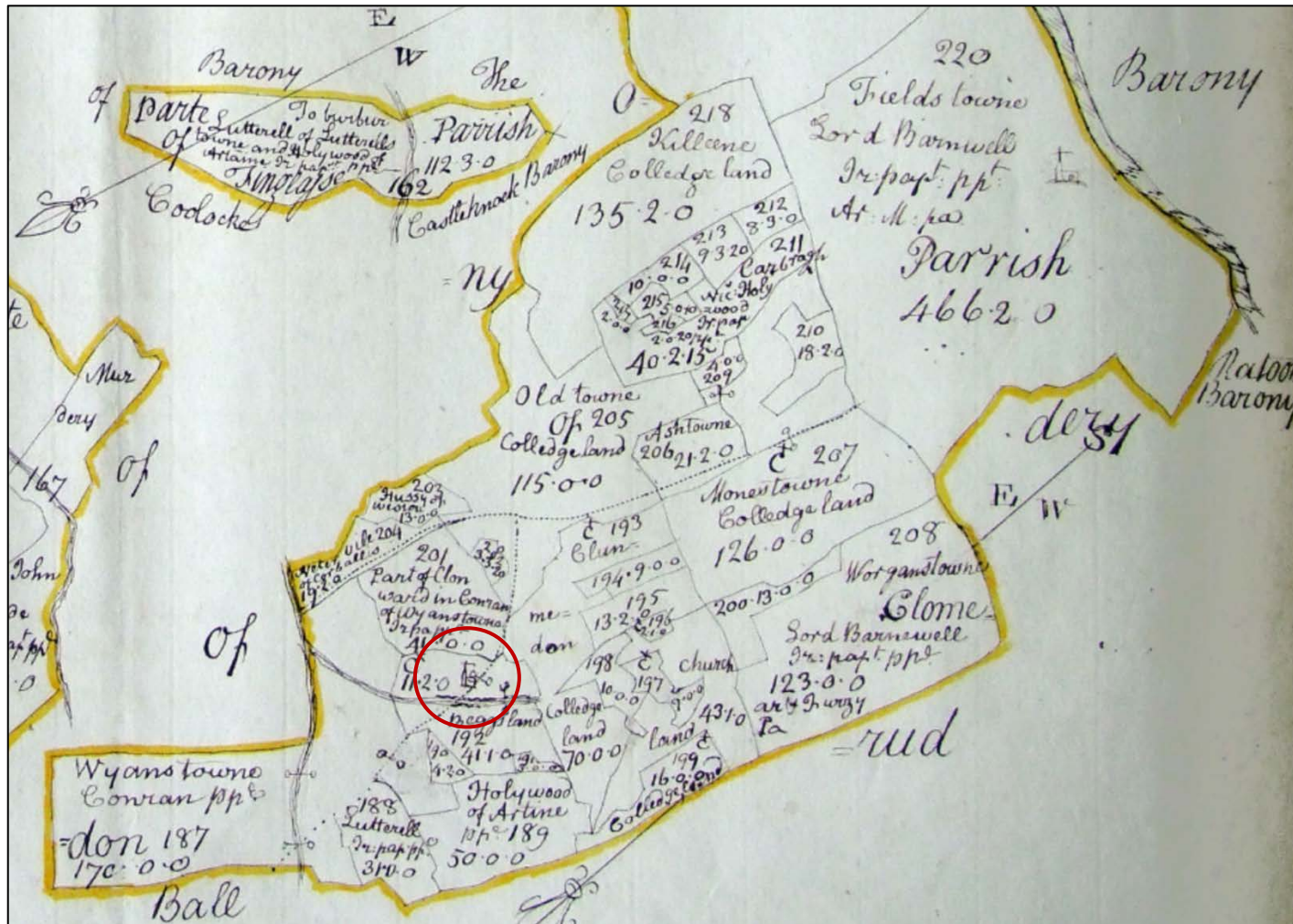


Figure 18: The Down Survey map of 'The Parishes of Finglasse, Clonmedon, part of Lusk Parrish...' (1656–58).⁴⁹ Clonmethan parish church is encircled in red.

⁴⁹ Available at: <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php#bm=Nethercross&c=Dublin&p=Finglasse+Lusk+and+Clonmedon> [Accessed: 19.10.23].

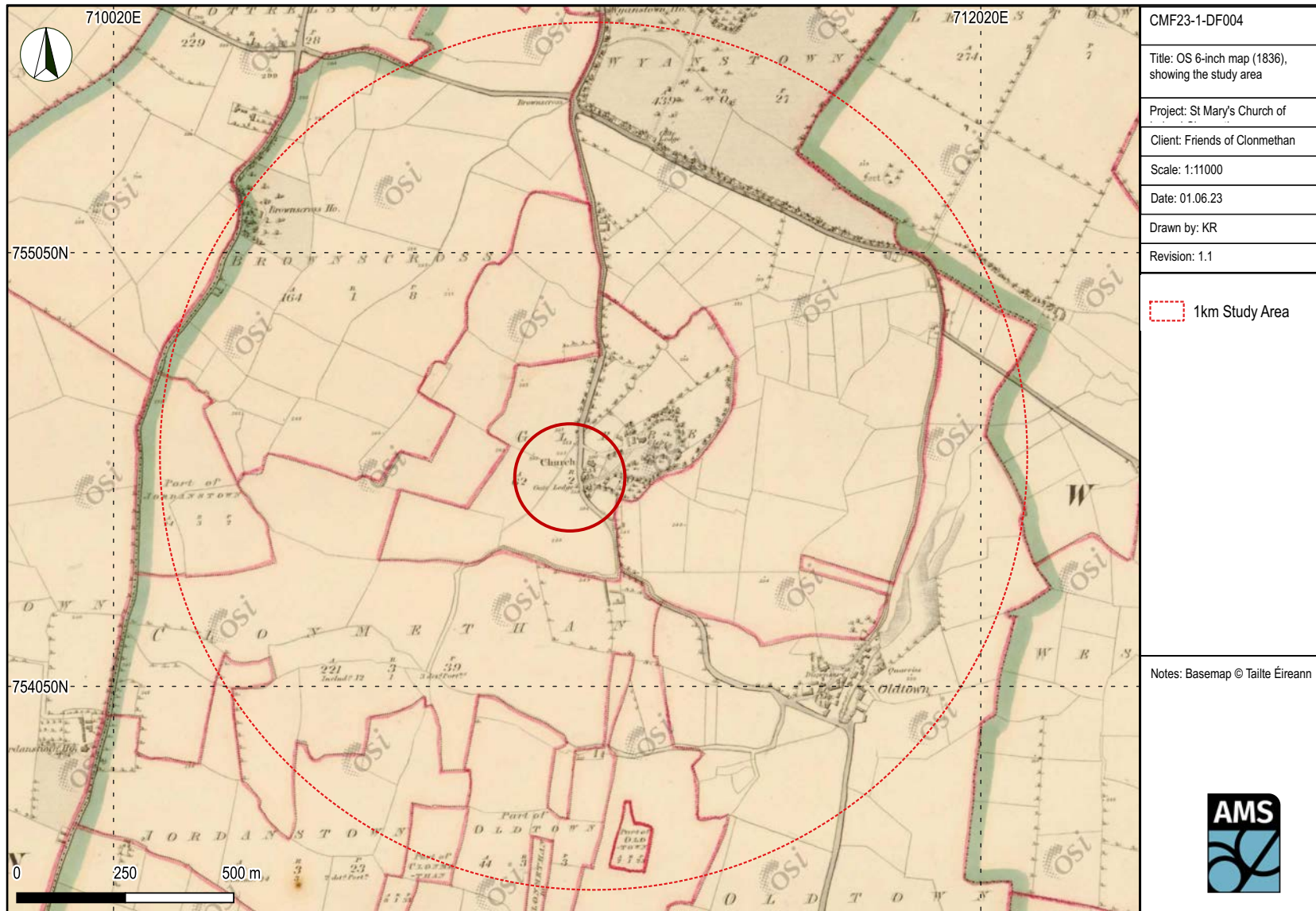


Figure 19: OS six-inch map (1836), showing the study area. The site is encircled in red.

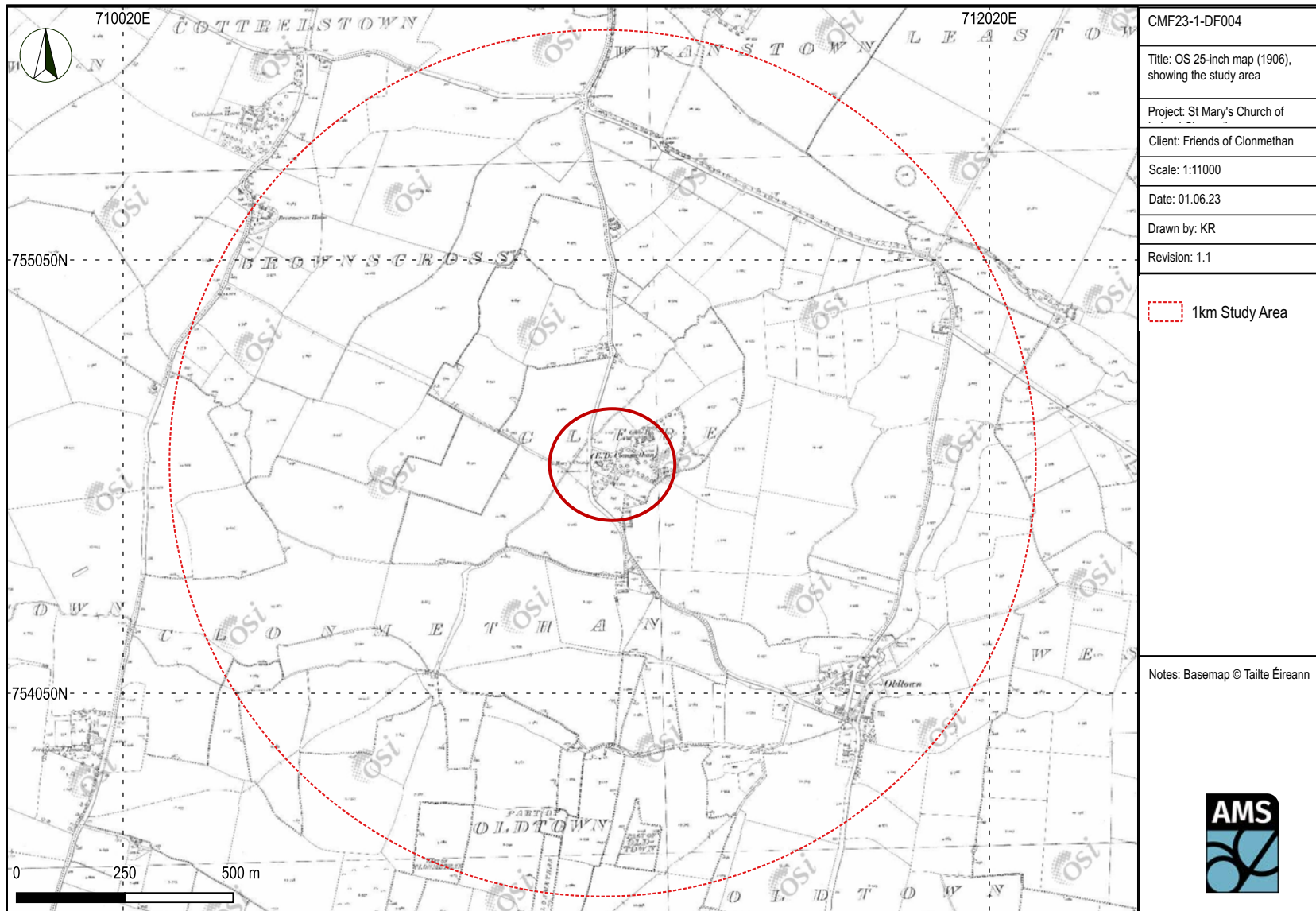


Figure 20: OS 25-inch map (1906), showing the study area. The site is encircled in red.

Plates



Plate 1: View of St Mary's Church, facing northeast.



Plate 2: Interior of church with nave and bell tower, facing west-northwest.



Plate 3: Oldtown Village Hall in advance of the Friends of Clonmethan Heritage Week event, which was held on 20 August 2023.



Plate 4: Interior of Oldtown Village Hall with exhibits in advance of the Friends of Clonmethan Heritage Week event.



Plate 5: Selection of artefacts shown as part of the Friends of Clonmethan Heritage Week event. To the right is a fragment (dims. 0.49m by 0.33m by 0.25m) of a single light cusped trefoil-headed window with glazing groove (width 15mm) and hollowed spandrels, which are carved on both faces of the stone.⁵⁰



Plate 6: Selection of exhibits detailing the equine heritage of Oldtown, which formed part of the Friends of Clonmethan Heritage Week event.

⁵⁰ The medieval architectural fragment was found by the Friends of Clonmethan at the western end of the nave of St Mary's Church during a clean-up. A 3D model of the fragment, which was produced by the NMS is available at: <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/clonmethan-church-window-du007-006001-f39c4547c681421ba4ae0939d81b59bc> [Accessed: 19.10.23].



Plate 7: Members of the Ward Union Hunt with the Friends of Clonmethan during the Heritage Week event.



Plate 8: Members of the Friends of Clonmethan with the Mayor of Fingal during the Heritage Week event.



Plate 9: The Friends of Clonmethan delivering a tour of Clonmethan graveyard, which formed part of the Heritage Week event.



Plate 10: View of entrance to site following removal of welfare facilities and signage, facing north-northeast.



Plate 11: Vertical cracking at northwest internal corner of north elevation.



Plate 12: Vertical cracking above door opening to vestry at north internal elevation.



Plate 13: Vegetation growing on north internal elevation.



Plate 14: Crack above fireplace in vestry.



Plate 15: Vertical crack above door from vestry to nave.



Plate 16: Timber lintel above window on west wall of vestry.



Plate 17: Cracking above window in south internal elevation.



Plate 18: Diagonal cracking in brickwork at south internal elevation.



Plate 19: Detail of stone pinnacles in bell tower.



Plate 20: Condition of stone cappings and crenellations in advance of interventions.



Plate 21: View of scaffold on bell tower from nave, facing west.



Plate 22: Extant timber sections in ringing platform of bell tower.



Plate 23: Timber louvres within timber frame in west elevation of bell tower.



Plate 24: Detail of brickwork in door leading from bell tower to nave, facing northeast.



Plate 25: Entrance to bell tower following removal of modern blocks, facing north.



Plate 26: Overview of nave from bell tower, facing east-southeast.



Plate 27: Inspecting pinnacles, stone cappings and crenellations during the NMS site visit.



Plate 28: Newly fabricated and fitted gate to vestry, facing east-southeast.



Plate 29: Newly fabricated and fitted gate to bell tower, facing north-northeast.



Plate 30: View of gate and cleared floor slabs in bell tower, facing west-northwest.



Plate 31: Detail of cleared floor slabs in bell tower, facing north-northeast.



Plate 32: Repointing, and cast-iron water pipe on north elevation of bell tower, facing south-southwest.



Plate 33: Repointing on south elevation of bell tower, facing north-northeast.



Plate 34: Detail of repointing on south elevation of bell tower, facing northeast.



Plate 35: Tell-tale on exterior east elevation of nave, west northwest.

Appendix 1: Designated Archaeological Sites in the Study Area

SMR/RMP Ref.	DU007-005---
Status	Recorded Monument; listed in the SMR
Townland	Browns Cross
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Site Type	Enclosure
Coordinates (ITM)	710802, 754855
Description	<p>Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes</p> <p>Located in a flat field of tillage to east of dried-up streambed. An aerial photograph taken in 1972 (FSI 592/1) shows a roughly circular cropmark of an enclosure with a diameter of c.16m. Not visible at ground level.</p>
Source	Historic Environment Viewer [online]. Available at: https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/

SMR/RMP Ref.	DU007-006001-
Status	Recorded Monument; listed in the SMR
Townland	Glebe
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Site Type	Church
Coordinates (ITM)	711120, 754580
Description	<p>Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes</p> <p>The present St Mary's Church of Ireland church ruins stands either on the site of or in close proximity to the site of the medieval nave and chancel parish church of Clonmethan (<i>Gleann Meáin</i>/Glynmethan), which was one of thirteen Sacredotal Prebends belonging to St Patrick's Cathedral (DU018-020269-), which were established in 1190 by Archbishop Comyn (Mason 1820, 53; Cotton 1848, 145). Clonmethan was the mother church to its daughter chapel at Fieldstown (DU011-002001-), which was dedicated to St Catherine the Virgin and Martyr; it lies 4.1km to the south.</p> <p>Clonmethan church ruins stands on high ground overlooking a stream to the north. The west wall of the graveyard faces onto the public road 760m northwest of Oldtown village in the townland of Glebe, parish of Clonmethan in the barony of Balrothery West. The townland boundary with Clonmethan lies 210m to the south, and the boundary with Wyanstown townland lies 235m to north and 140m to the east.</p> <p>In the year 1230, King John granted and confirmed to John, Archbishop of Dublin, all the possessions, ecclesiastical and lay, of his see, which included; 'Glinmechan [Clonmethan], with its church; a moiety of the tithes of the land of Okadesy de Finegal [Fingal]' (Cal doc Ire. Vol. 1, entry No. 1787, 266–67). The 1302–07 Ecclesiastical Taxation of the See of Dublin listed the 'Prebend of Glynmethan' which was valued at 20 marks per annum with the tithe valued at 2 marks (Cal. doc. Ire., Vol. 5, 237). In 1336, 'William de Byrton, prebendary of Glynmethan in the church of St Patrick, Dublin' was recorded as staying in England (Cal. Pat. Rolls</p>

SMR/RMP Ref.

DU007-006001-

Edw. III 1334–38, 312). In 1391, the Crown ratified the 'estate of Matthew de Lytherland as prebendary of Glemethan in the cathedral church of St Patrick, Dublin' (Cal. Pat. Rolls Richard II, 414). In 1414, Thomas Cranley, Prebendary of Clonmethan, was sued for two-third parts of the issues and profits of said prebend for two years, having been an absentee therefrom, but, on production of the king's letters patent licensing his absence, the claim was given up (D'Alton 1838, 404). In 1465, a papal letter was sent to the Augustinian Prior of All Saints or Priory of All Hallows [DU018-020044-] in Dublin, relating to the petition of the 22 year old Nicholas Douedale [Dovedale/Dowdall], clerk of the diocese of Dublin, who was to be promoted; 'to all, even holy orders and hold a benefice even with cure, on the voidance of a canonry of Dublin and the sacerdotal prebend of Clemethane [Clonmethan] therein by the death of Walter Hyll [Hill]' (Cal. papal letters, Vol. 12, 467–68). In 1474, 'Nicholas Dovedale, Prebendary of Clonmethan, in a petition preferred by him to Parliament, 14th Edw. IV. stated, that divers persons, aliens, strangers and denizens, did frequent in considerable numbers, by way of pilgrimage, the chapel of St Catherine the Virgin and Martyr of F[i]eldstown [DU011-002001-], which was appropriated and annexed to the Prebend of Clonmethan, being for the health and safety of their souls and accomplishment of their petitions and prayers' (Mason 1820, 53). In 1475, Nicholas Dowdall, Prebendary of Clonmethan, had license of absence for eight years to enable him to prosecute his studies at Oxford (D'Alton 1838, 404).

D'Alton (1838, 404) recorded that in 1540 at the dissolution Nicholas Lyn was Prebendary of Clonmethan, at which time an inquisition taken stated the possessions of the prebend as one manse and eight acres of land, value 8s.; then tithes of the hamlets of Clonmethan, Old-town, Killeene, Cabragh, Morton, Jordanstown, Cotterelstown, Newinnings, Wyanstown, and the fifty acres near Morton, worth per annum (exclusive of the altarages and demesne assigned for the curate at Clonmethan and repair of the chancel) £17 5s. together with the tithes of Fieldstown [DU011-002001-] (exclusive of the altarages and stipend assigned to the curate). In 1547, the rectory of Clonmethan was leased to John Talbot of Malahide, and by him assigned to Patrick Barnewall of Grace-Dieu for twenty-one years at £21 5s. 4d. annual rent. In 1560, Alexander Craike, Prebendary of Clonmethan and Dean of St. Patrick's, was promoted to the see of Kildare, retaining, however, the deanery of St Patrick's therewith, "in as much as the said bishopric as well in spirituals as temporals, by continual and intolerable oppression of the Irish rebels, is become so small and poor as to be inefficient for keeping of hospitality, and maintaining other charges which the said bishop is obliged to support." In 1561, Walter Hill was prebendary. He was also vicar of Lusk [DU008-010004-], and contributed largely towards the repair of that church. In 1564 Robert Daly, who had been prebendary of this place, was consecrated Bishop of Kildare, and held this prebend with the vicarage of Swords [DU011-034004-] in commendam. The queen's letter of this year mentions, that he "is well commended to her for his good name and honest living, and the rather because he was well able to preach in the Irish tongue" '. I

n 1546–47 an Inquisition held at Swords recorded the following details about the tithes of Clonmethan Church; 'The tithes are derived from the hamlets of Clonmethan, Oldtowne, Kyllene, Cabraghe, Morton, Jordanston, Cotterelston, Newynnyngs, Wyaneston and the fyfty acres near Morton, which are worth, per annum, (exclusive of the alterages and demesne, assigned for the Curate at Clonmethan, and repair of the Chancel)' (Mason 1820, 54). In 1615, the Royal Visitation of Dublin recorded that in the Deanery of Garristown there was Clonmethan Church which was served by the curate, Thomas Richmond who was described as 'Minister and Preacher'. The building was described as Church and Chancel good, with books' (Ronan 1941, 24). According to Ronan (*ibid.*), 'Glinmethane (according to the ancient records) became Clonmethan (*Cluain*

SMR/RMP Ref.	DU007-006001-
	<p><i>Meathan</i>). It stood "<i>in terra Occadesis</i>" and was a sacerdotal prebend of St Patrick's [DU018-020269-] at the foundation of the chapter. In 1630, Archbishop Bulkeley's Visitation of Dublin, recorded the following details about Clonmethan; 'The church and chauncell are upp, but not decent within. The tythes belong unto Richard Powell, Mr. of Arte and preacher, as one of the prebends of St. Patricks, worth xl libri per annum. There are not above x or xii in that parishe that come to church to heare divine service. William Tedder aforesaid serves the cure' (Ronan 1941, 69).</p> <p>The church building was described in the 1654-56 Civil Survey of Dublin as; 'There is an old Church upon ye p'[re]misses of Clonmedan out of reparaire. The whole Parish of Clonmedan did Suite & Service to ye Archbishops' Court at Swordes [DU011-034001-] & now to ye Colledg. The Tythes of ye whole Parish did Anno 1640 belong to ye Parson (except those of Rolestowne wch belong'd to Mr. ffagan of ffeltrum) & now belong to ye Colledge' (Simington 1945, 152). The Civil Survey recorded that 'The Church of Clonmedan' stood in Clonmedan and possessed 10 acres [16a] of arable land which today forms part of the glebe land of St Mary's Church (Simington 1945, 157). In 1667, the Archbishop of Dublin had a grant of fifty acres plantation measure here, with various other lands in augmentation of his see; and in 1675 the parishes of Clonmethan, Balmadun, Palmerstown, Grenogue, Westpalstown, and Ballyboghil, were united by act of council. According to D'Alton (1838, 404-7); 'in 1695 Henry Rider, Bishop of Killaloe, was buried in this church. In 1716, Archbishop King, by virtue of a power vested in him by act of parliament, granted to the Prebendary of Clonmethan and his successors for ever as a glebe for that parish, the following lands, viz. the five-acre park with garden and cabin adjoining thereto; the two-acre park, and four acres and a half adjoining to the five-acre park, and the rest of Begge's land, being eight acres and a half, all lying near the church of Clonmethan, for which the incumbent was to pay £1 10s. yearly to the archbishop.</p>
Source	Historic Environment Viewer [online]. Available at: https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/

SMR/RMP Ref.	DU007-006002-
Status	Recorded Monument; listed in the SMR
Townland	Glebe
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Site Type	Graveyard
Coordinates (ITM)	711136, 754585
Description	<p>Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes</p> <p>Clonmethan (<i>Gleann Meáin</i>) graveyard and church stands on high ground with good extensive views of the surrounding countryside. Glebe House stands 120m to the northeast. The church and graveyard are in the townland of Glebe, parish of Clonmethan and barony of Balrothery West. The present remains consist of a subrectangular shaped area (dims. c.47m N-S by 56m E-W) enclosed by a post-1700 stone wall and earthen bank at north, with entrance gate at southwest angle and smaller pedestrian gate giving access to the Glebe House in centre of the east wall. The interior is raised to the level of the wall (H 2.6m) and higher except in the north where there is no perimeter wall (H 1.7m).</p> <p>St Mary's Church of Ireland (1818) stands in the south quadrant of the graveyard</p>

DU007-006002- – Description continued	on the site of the medieval church of Clonmethan (DU007-006001-). Grave markers date from eighteenth century onwards; earliest dated to 1754 (Egan 1992). An access path in the south has cut into grave deposits (D 1.7m). Graveyard still in use.
Source	Historic Environment Viewer [online]. Available at: https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/

SMR/RMP Ref.	DU007-007---
Status	Recorded Monument; Protected Structure (RPS 0148); listed in the SMR
Townland	Leastown
Civil Parish	Westpalstown
Barony	Balrothery West
Site Type	Ringfort – unclassified
Coordinates (ITM)	711826, 755242
Description	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes Site labelled 'fort' on the 1837 OS 6-inch map. It is located on a natural rise, which falls away to Ballyboghil Stream to the southwest. The surrounding field has been cleared, reset and fenced to the southwest, while the site perimeter is planted with beech and sycamore. The site comprises a circular platform with a diameter of 37m, height of 3.2m and possible ramped entrance in the southwest. Traces of an outer fosse, which were visible in 1950, have since silted up. Probably the remains of a platform ringfort (Healy 1975, 19).
Source	Historic Environment Viewer [online]. Available at: https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/

SMR Ref.	DU007-022---
Status	Recorded Monument; listed in the SMR
Townland	Oldtown
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Site Type	Earthwork site possible (recorded as 'Burial' in the SMR)
Coordinates (ITM)	N/A
Description	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: No The NMI Wakeman Collection Catalogue, No. 30 describes fragments of a mortuary vessel which came from a rath at Oldtown. This may have been located in a field known as 'Dun Hill' which is beside the present Post Office. Locals describe a low earthwork at this site which, has since been levelled. The exact location of this monument is unknown.
Source	Historic Environment Viewer [online]. Available at: https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/

SMR Ref.	DU007-056---
Status	Listed in the SMR

SMR Ref.	DU007-056---
Townland	Wyanstown
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Site Type	Enclosure
Coordinates (ITM)	711544, 755501
Description	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes A circular enclosure visible as cropmark on an aerial imagery. Located within gently undulating arable landscape. No surface expression.
Source	Historic Environment Viewer [online]. Available at: https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/

Appendix 2: Archaeological Investigations within the Study Area

Licence No.	06E0913
Townland	Oldtown
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
RMP/SMR Ref.	DU007-022---
Coordinates (ITM)	711260, 754019
DIER Ref.	2006:687
Consultant	Emer Dennehy, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd.
Summary of Findings	An impact assessment of the site on O'Brien's Lane was undertaken on behalf of Fingal County Council due to its location within the zone of archaeological potential for an earthwork 'site'. According to the RMP files, human remains were identified within a 'rath' in Oldtown. Given the fact that human remains were identified, it is more probable that the site in question is the remains of a prehistoric barrow than a ringfort. Five test-trenches were excavated within the eastern portion of the site. A distinct fall in the land was noted in this location and testing indicated this is the remains of an eroded streambed rather than an archaeological feature. This is confirmed through the heavy occurrence of iron-panned and leached clay. A possible pond was noted upslope within Trench 5 measuring 25.5m in diameter. No features or stratigraphy of an archaeological nature were identified within the test area.
Source	Database of Irish Excavation Reports [online]. Available at: http://excavations.ie/report/2006/Dublin/0015431/

Licence No.	07E0728
Townland	Oldtown
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
RMP/SMR Ref.	DU007-022---
Coordinates (ITM)	711260, 754019
DIER Ref.	2007:533
Consultant	Siân Keith, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd,
Summary of Findings	Monitoring took place of topsoil-stripping across a site partially within an RMP constraint area. A field ditch was exposed of probable post-medieval date.
Source	Database of Irish Excavation Reports [online]. Available at: http://excavations.ie/report/2007/Dublin/0017509/

Appendix 3: Designated Built Heritage Sites in the Study Area

RPS Ref.	0145
NIAH Reg.	11320003
Legal Status	Protected Structure
Rating	Regional
Townland	Glebe
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Original Use	Rectory/glebe/vicarage/curate's house
In Use As	House
Date	1815–1820
Coordinates (ITM)	711235, 754640
Description	<p>Detached three-bay two-storey over basement house, built 1817, with projecting three-bay gable-fronted entrance porch. Courtyard bounded by two outbuildings to left-hand side.</p> <p>ROOF: Hipped slate roof with terracotta ridge tiles and overhanging eaves, two nap rendered and shouldered chimney stacks with terracotta pots.</p> <p>WALLS: Lime rendered over rubble stone with a granite plinth course; three-bay single storey lean-to at right hand side of basement.</p> <p>OPENINGS: Square and round headed window openings with rendered reveals, granite sills, original timber sash and margin sash windows; blind windows to all sides; access at each end of porch flanking a round headed window. Granite steps lead to probably original timber panelled two-leaf door.</p>
Source	<p>NIAH Building Survey [online]. Available at: https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320003/clonmethan-glebe-glebe-ba-w-by-clonmethan-ed </p>

RPS Ref.	0146
NIAH Reg.	11320004
Legal Status	Protected Structure
Rating	Regional
Townland	Glebe
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Original Use	Church/chapel
Date	1780–1820
Coordinates (ITM)	711125, 754583
Description	<p>Detached single-cell Board of First Fruits Church of Ireland church, c.1800, with three-stage castellated tower and three-bay side elevation having single-bay entrance porch to side. Now roofless. Set in graveyard with various cut stone grave markers, c.1800 to present.</p>
RPS Ref. 0146 –	

Description (continued)	<p>ROOF: No roof.</p> <p>WALLS: Coursed rubble; rough cast lime render; cut stone corners to tower; cut stone finials to tower corners.</p> <p>OPENINGS: Blocked-up; pointed arches; brick surrounds and granite sills to church; pointed and arched openings to tower with cut stone openings and stone sill. Blocked up openings to ground floor.</p>
Source	<p>NIAH Building Survey [online]. Available at: https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320004/saint-marys-church-of-ireland-church-glebe-ba-w-by-clonmethan-ed</p>

NIAH Reg.	11320005
Legal Status	Listed on the NIAH Building Survey
Rating	Regional
Townland	Glebe
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Original Use	Post box
In Use As	Post box
Date	1900–1910
Coordinates (ITM)	711103, 754535
Description	Wall-mounted cast-iron post box, c.1905, with 'ER VII' monogram.
Source	<p>NIAH Building Survey [online]. Available at: https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320005/glebe-ba-w-by-clonmethan-ed</p>

NIAH Reg.	11320007
Legal Status	Listed on the NIAH Building Survey
Rating	Regional
Townland	Oldtown
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Original Use	Bridge
In Use As	Bridge
Date	1880–1920
Coordinates (ITM)	711691, 753988
Description	Single-span coursed rubble stone road bridge over river, c.1900, with lintel-headed opening and curved concrete capping to parapet. Plaque inscribed 'In remembrance of Mary Adrian and Comrades, late Old I.R.A. Fingal Bridge 1916 – 1921'.

NIAH Reg. 11320007 – Source	NIAH Building Survey [online]. Available at: https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320007/oldtown-bridge-oldtown-ba-w-by-oldtown
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NIAH Reg.	11320008
Legal Status	Listed on the NIAH Building Survey
Rating	Regional
Townland	Oldtown
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Original Use	House
In Use As	House
Date	1840–1860
Coordinates (ITM)	711623, 754029
Description	<p>Detached three-bay two-storey house, c.1850, with two-storey return to rear, retaining original door.</p> <p>ROOF: Hipped, slate with terracotta ridge tiles. Two rendered and corniced chimney stacks; cast-iron rainwater goods.</p> <p>WALLS: Roughcast lime render; exposed coarsed rubble in sections.</p> <p>OPENINGS: Segmental headed doorcase; foliate console brackets; panelled pilasters; segmental plate glass fanlight; original timber door with arched panels; square headed windows; rendered reveals; granite sills; uPVC replacement frames.</p>
Source	NIAH Building Survey [online]. Available at: https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320008/oldtown-house-oldtown-ba-w-by-oldtown

NIAH Reg.	11320009
Legal Status	Listed on the NIAH Building Survey
Rating	Regional
Townland	Oldtown
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Original Use	House
In Use As	House
Date	1850–1890
Coordinates (ITM)	711674, 754012
Description	<p>Detached three-bay two-storey rubble limestone house, c.1870, with gable-fronted projecting entrance porch. Timber lean-to conservatory to left-hand side, c.1985. Three-bay two-storey adjoining shop, c.1940, to right-hand side.</p>

	<p>ROOF: M-profile; slate; rubble and rendered chimneys; cast-iron rainwater goods; carved timber barge boards to roof, porch and conservatory; timber finial to porch; flat roof to shop - double pitched to rear.</p> <p>WALLS: Un-coursed limestone rubble; nap rendered walls to shop; projecting rendered lettering.</p> <p>OPENINGS: Square headed red brick dressing to window openings; stone sill; 2/2 timber sash windows; convex sash horns; timber top hung casement windows to conservatory with margin panes; round headed doorcase; foliate consoles; reproduction segmental fanlight; glazed timber panelled door; square headed window and door openings; rendered reveals; panelled timber door; uPVC sash windows.</p>
Source	<p>NIAH Building Survey [online]. Available at: https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320009/p-archer-oldtown-ba-w-by-oldtown</p>

NIAH Reg.	11320010
Legal Status	Listed on the NIAH Building Survey
Rating	Regional
Townland	Oldtown
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Original Use	Water pump
Date	1890–1920
Coordinates (ITM)	711698, 753979
Description	Cast-iron water pump, c.1910, of square profile with a curved handle. Inscription "Balrothery District Council".
Source	<p>NIAH Building Survey [online]. Available at: https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320010/oldtown-ba-w-by-oldtown</p>

RPS Ref.	0901
NIAH Reg.	11320011
Legal Status	Protected Structure
Rating	Regional
Townland	Oldtown
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Original Use	Hall
In Use As	Hall
Date	1870–1890
Coordinates (ITM)	711665, 753979

RPS Ref. 0901 – Description	<p>Detached gabled-fronted single-bay single-storey corrugated-iron hall, c.1880, with gable-fronted projecting entrance porch and four-bay side elevation. Outdoor toilets to site.</p> <p>ROOF: Double pitched corrugated iron with carved barge boards and finials.</p> <p>WALLS: Corrugated iron.</p> <p>OPENINGS: Square headed windows with timber architraves; sills and timber framed windows. Recessed square-headed door opening with timber architrave, tongue and groove reveals and soffit to porch, two-leaf timber-panelled door; tongue and groove door.</p>
Source	<p>NIAH Building Survey [online]. Available at: https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320011/oldtown-hall-oldtown-ba-w-by-oldtown</p>

NIAH Reg.	11320012
Legal Status	Listed on the NIAH Building Survey
Rating	Regional
Townland	Oldtown
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Original Use	Church/chapel
In Use As	Church/chapel
Date	1960–1965
Coordinates (ITM)	711760, 753857
Description	<p>Detached gable-fronted Roman Catholic church, built 1962, with seven-bay side elevation and apse to rear. Detached square profile bell tower.</p> <p>ROOF: Double pitched; green tiled overhang; cast-iron rainwater goods; timber barge boards; double pitched green tiled roof to bell tower; semi-circular hipped roof to rear.</p> <p>WALLS: Rock faced granite nap rendered plinth; nap rendered tower and pilasters.</p> <p>OPENINGS: Arched recess framed by engaged columns; round headed door with moulded plaster surround; panelled timber doors; arched windows with patent surrounds; stained glass.</p> <p>INTERIOR: Single cell interior; semi-circular apse; gallery over vestibule; arched stained glass windows; barrel vaulted compartmented ceiling; linoleum and timber floor.</p>
Source	<p>NIAH Building Survey [online]. Available at: https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320012/oldtown-roman-catholic-church-oldtown-ba-w-by-oldtown</p>

NIAH Reg.	11320013
Legal Status	Listed on the NIAH Building Survey
Rating	Regional

NIAH Reg.	11320013
Townland	Oldtown
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Original Use	Presbytery/parochial/curate's house
In Use As	Presbytery/parochial/curate's house
Date	1860–1880
Coordinates (ITM)	711690, 753930
Description	<p>Detached three-bay single-storey presbytery, c.1870, with uPVC gable-fronted projecting entrance porch. Flat-roofed extension to rear, c.1970. Detached three-bay single-storey outbuilding, c.1870 to rear.</p> <p>ROOF: U-shaped slate roof with terracotta tiled, red brick corniced chimney stacks with terracotta pots; double pitched uPVC glazed porch roof with decorative ridging and finial.</p> <p>WALLS: Rough cast rendered wall with nap rendered plinth course; nap rendered walls to porch.</p> <p>OPENINGS: Square headed openings with patent reveals; stone sills and uPVC casements; round headed door openings; uPVC door with patent reveals and probably original timber panelled door within porch.</p>
Source	<p>NIAH Building Survey [online]. Available at: https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320013/oldtown-presbytery-oldtown-ba-w-by-oldtown</p>