

# **St Doulagh's Conservation Management Plan: Saintdoolaghs, County Dublin (CMF24-2-DF001)**



**Archaeological**  
Management Solutions



**By Dr Kim Rice**

**With contributions from Ian Douglas, Roy Goodwin, Sara Marandola, Ciara O'Flynn,  
Liamóg Roche and Chris Southgate**

**For The Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St  
Doulagh's, and the Friends of St Doulagh's Church**

**28 November 2024**

TITLE PAGE

AMS Job No:	J3529
CMF Ref:	CMF24-2-DF001
Project Name:	St Doulagh's Conservation Management Plan
Report Title:	St Doulagh’s Conservation Management Plan: Saintdoolaghs, County Dublin
Client Name:	The Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's, and the Friends of St Doulagh's Church
Townland Names:	Balgriffin, Bohammer, Burgage, Kinsaley, Saintdoolaghs
Grid Reference (ITM):	721051, 742104
Report Status/Revision:	Draft_0.5
Revision Date:	28 November 2024
Report Author(s):	Dr Kim Rice
Contributors:	Ian Douglas, Roy Goodwin, Sara Marandola, Ciara O’Flynn, Liamóg Roche and Chris Southgate
Technical Reviewer:	Joanne Hughes
Copyeditor:	Ann-Marie Hardy
Approved By:	Joanne Hughes
Date of Issue:	08 November 2024
File Name:	J3529_St Doulagh's CMP_v0.5.docx

## Disclaimer and Copyright Notice

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, AMS accepts no responsibility for omissions and/or inconsistencies that may result from information becoming available subsequent to the report's completion.

The concepts and information contained in this document are the property of AMS Cultural Heritage Consultancy Limited trading as Archaeological Management Solutions (AMS). Use or copying of this document in whole or in part without the written permission of AMS constitutes an infringement of copyright.

© AMS Cultural Heritage Consultancy Limited 2024



**AMS Cultural Heritage Consultancy Limited trading as Archaeological Management Solutions (AMS)**

Company Registration No. 721173

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

T +353 (0)65 9062 878

[www.ams-consultancy.com](http://www.ams-consultancy.com)

## Acknowledgements

AMS wishes to acknowledge the following internal and external personnel who contributed to the work described in this report.

Name	Organisation	Role
<b>Christine Baker</b>	Fingal County Council	Fingal Heritage Officer
<b>Dr James Bonsall</b>	Archaeological Management Solutions	UAV-based LiDAR and Thermal Imaging Survey
<b>Ian Douglas</b>	Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants	Ecology Survey and Bat Survey
<b>Paul Duffy</b>	Grassroots Archaeology; Resurrecting Monuments	Advice and sharing of information
<b>Aidan Giblin</b>	Resurrecting Monuments	Advice and sharing of information
<b>Reverend Canon David Gillespie</b>	The United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's	Rector of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's
<b>Roy Goodwin</b>	Goodwin-Arborist	Arboriculturist
<b>Ann-Marie Hardy</b>	Archaeological Management Solutions	Copy Editor
<b>Joanne Hughes</b>	Archaeological Management Solutions	Technical Review
<b>Dr Thorsten Kahlert</b>	Centre for GIS and Geomatics, School of the Natural and Built Environment, Queens University Belfast	Hand-Held LiDAR and Laser Survey
<b>Susan Kennedy</b>	Lensmen Photography	Advice and sharing of information
<b>Sara Marandola</b>	Archaeological Management Solutions	Built Heritage Specialist and Survey Drawings
<b>Ken McAllister</b>	Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's; Friends of St Doulagh's	Glebe Warden of St Doulagh's; Member of the Friends of St Doulagh's Church
<b>Derek Moffatt</b>	Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's; Friends of St Doulagh's	Treasurer of the Friends of St Doulagh's Church
<b>Mick Mongey</b>	Resurrecting Monuments	Advice and sharing of information
<b>Ciara O'Flynn</b>	Archaeological Management Solutions	Built Heritage Specialist
<b>Jeff O'Neill</b>	Archaeological Management Solutions	UAV-based LiDAR and Thermal Imaging Survey
<b>Martin Reid</b>	National Monuments Service	Community Monuments Fund, Dublin Officer
<b>Dr Kim Rice</b>	Archaeological Management Solutions	Project Archaeologist and Report Author
<b>Liamóg Roche</b>	Archaeological Management Solutions	UAV-based LiDAR and Thermal Imaging Survey
<b>Chris Southgate</b>	Southgate Associates	Conservation Engineer



## Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b><i>Introduction</i></b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Project Background	2
1.2	Site Location	4
1.3	Ownership and Access	5
1.4	Preparation of the Conservation Management Plan	5
1.5	Scope of the Conservation Management Plan	6
1.6	Gathering Information	6
<b>2</b>	<b><i>Existing Statutory, Policy and Guidance Framework</i></b>	<b>10</b>
2.1	Archaeological Heritage	12
2.2	Architectural Heritage	15
2.3	Natural Heritage	18
2.4	Fingal Development Plan	20
2.5	Fingal Heritage Plan	20
2.6	Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan	21
2.7	Fingal Community Archaeology Strategy	21
2.8	Fingal Climate Action Plan	22
2.9	Fingal Local Economic & Community Plan	22
<b>3</b>	<b><i>Developing the Conservation Management Plan</i></b>	<b>23</b>
3.1	Previous Maintenance Works, Assessments and Surveys	23
3.2	Surveys Undertaken as Part of the CMP Process (2024)	29
3.3	Consultation	30
3.4	Developing Policies	31
<b>4</b>	<b><i>Description of the Monuments</i></b>	<b>32</b>
4.1	Ealy Medieval Subsurface Archaeology	32
4.2	St Doulagh's Church	33
4.3	St Doolagh's Well	37
4.4	St Catherine's Well	40
4.5	Graveyard	41
4.6	Cross	42
<b>5</b>	<b><i>Understanding the Place</i></b>	<b>43</b>
5.1	Location Topography and Landscape Setting	43
5.2	St Doulagh	43
5.3	Archaeological and Historical Background	44
5.4	Cartographical Analysis	53

5.5	Natural Heritage of the Place .....	55
5.6	Intangible Cultural Heritage .....	57
6	<i>Assessment of Significance</i> .....	60
6.1	Basis of Assessment .....	60
6.2	The Values of the Place.....	60
6.3	Statement of Significance .....	62
7	<i>Conservation Issues and Vulnerabilities</i> .....	63
7.1	The Purpose of Identifying Issues and Vulnerabilities .....	63
7.2	Identifying Issues and Vulnerabilities .....	63
8	<i>Conservation Policies and Actions</i> .....	74
8.1	Conservation Philosophy .....	74
8.2	Conservation Policies.....	74
8.3	Conservation Actions.....	75
9	<i>Management and Implementation Framework</i> .....	81
9.1	Management Structure.....	81
9.2	Management Guidance .....	81
9.3	Implementation .....	85
9.4	Duration of Plan .....	86
	<i>References</i> .....	87
	<i>Figures</i> .....	94
	<i>Plates</i> .....	126
	<i>Appendix 1: Archaeological Heritage Assets</i> .....	153
	<i>Appendix 2: Architectural Heritage Assets</i> .....	163
	<i>Appendix 3: Archaeological Investigations</i> .....	171
	<i>Appendix 4: Extracts from the Irish Folklore Commission Schools' Collection</i> .....	176
	<i>Appendix 5: Fingal Development Plan 2023–2029 – Policies and Objectives</i> .....	180
	<i>Appendix 6: Fingal Heritage Plan 2024–2030 – Strategic Objectives</i> .....	187
	<i>Appendix 7: Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2023–2030 – Actions and Objectives</i> .....	190
	<i>Appendix 8: Fingal Community Archaeology Strategy 2019–2023 – Objectives</i> .....	191
	<i>Appendix 9: Fingal Climate Change Action Plan 2019–2024 – Actions</i> .....	192
	<i>Appendix 10: Fingal Local Economic &amp; Community Plan 2023–2028 – Objectives and Actions</i> .....	194
	<i>Appendix 11: Conservation Policies and Actions for St Doulagh's</i> .....	195
	<i>Appendix 12: Stakeholder Group</i> .....	202
	<i>Appendix 13: Potential Notification, Licence and Consent Requirements</i> .....	203
	<i>Annexes</i> .....	204

## List of Tables

Table 1: Townlands in the study area.....	4
Table 2: Sources consulted during the preparation of the CMP. ....	7
Table 3: Relevant guidelines, policy and legislation.....	10
Table 4: Designated archaeological heritage assets in the study area. ....	14
Table 5: Designated architectural heritage assets in the study area. ....	17
Table 6: Conservation policies for St Doulagh's. ....	75
Table 7: Recommended actions to the implemented for Policy 1.....	75
Table 8: Recommended actions to the implemented for Policy 2.....	76
Table 9: Recommended actions to the implemented for Policy 3.....	78
Table 10: Recommended actions to the implemented for Policy 4.....	79

## List of Figures

Figure 1: Ground plan of St Doulagh's Church.....	95
Figure 2: South-facing section through St Doulagh's Church. ....	96
Figure 3: Ground plans of the graveyard, Baptistry and St Catherine's Well. ....	97
Figure 4: East and south elevations of St Doulagh's Church.....	98
Figure 5: North and west elevations of St Doulagh's Church. ....	99
Figure 6: Location map. ....	100
Figure 7: Aerial overview of study area with Saintdoolaghs and the surrounding townlands.....	101
Figure 8: Archaeological heritage assets in the study area. ....	102
Figure 9: Protected Structures in the study area.....	103
Figure 10: NIAH sites in the wider study area. ....	104
Figure 11: Archaeological excavations in the study area.....	105
Figure 12: Resistance greyscale imagery from geophysical survey.....	106
Figure 13: Gradiometry interpretations from geophysical survey.....	107
Figure 14: Resistance interpretations from geophysical survey. ....	108
Figure 15: LiDAR imagery of St Doulagh's.....	109
Figure 16: 'The Church of St Doulough. 5M from Dublin', by Gabriel Beranger (1772). ....	110
Figure 17: 'St Doulough's well, near Coolock. 5M from Dublin', by Gabriel Beranger (1772). ....	111
Figure 18: 'View of St. Doulagh's Church, Balgriffin, County Dublin, Ireland', by Barralet (1780). ....	112
Figure 19: 'St. Doulagh's Church', by Edward Ledwich, 1790. ....	113
Figure 20: 'St. Doulough's Church County of Dublin', by Francis Grose (1790–1800). ....	114
Figure 21: 'St. Doulough's Church, Co. Dublin', by Sparrow (1792). ....	115
Figure 22: 'St. Doulagh's Church, county of Dublin', by George A. Hanlon (1859). ....	116

Figure 23: 'St. Doulagh's Church, County of Dublin', by William Frazer (1889–97).....	117
Figure 24: 'Granite Cross at St Doolough', by George V. Du Noyer (c.1817–69).....	118
Figure 25: 'View of St Doolough's, Raheny', by Nathaniel Hone the Younger (c.1895–1902).....	119
Figure 26: Extract from 'The Countie of Leinster...' by John Speed (1610). ....	120
Figure 27: Extract from the Down Survey map of 'The Barony of Coolock', William Wright (1655)...	121
Figure 28: Extract from the Down Survey map of 'The Parishes of Sword', William Wright (1655). ..	122
Figure 29: Extract from 'An Actual Survey of the County of Dublin' by John Rocque (1760). ....	123
Figure 30: OS first-edition six-inch map. ....	124
Figure 31: OS first-edition 25-inch map. ....	125

## List of Plates

Plate 1: 'St Doulach's Church' facing west, by Edward King Tenison (1858).....	127
Plate 2: 'St Doolough's Church' facing north-northeast, by Edward King Tenison (1858).....	128
Plate 3: 'St Doolough's Church, Malahide, Co. Dublin', by John Fortune Lawrence (c.1860–1883)....	129
Plate 4: 'St Doolough's Church, Co. Dublin' facing east-northeast, Robert French (c.1865–1914)....	130
Plate 5: 'St Doolough's Church, Co. Dublin' facing west, by Robert French (c.1865–1914). ....	131
Plate 6: 'St Doolough's Well, Co. Dublin' facing north, by Robert French (c.1865–1914).....	132
Plate 7: 'St Doulagh's Church facing north-northwest, by A. Harris (1894).....	133
Plate 8: 'St Doulagh's Church facing north, by A. Harris (1894). ....	133
Plate 9: Latin cross at St Doulagh's, by A. Harris (1894). ....	134
Plate 10: The Baptistry, by A. Harris (1894). ....	134
Plate 11: West-facing elevation of fifteenth-century church buildings. ....	135
Plate 12: South-facing elevation of oratory and part of tower. ....	136
Plate 13: Interior of oratory with view east towards east window. ....	137
Plate 14: First-floor level mezzanine of medieval church. ....	138
Plate 15: Architectural fragments in oratory. ....	139
Plate 16: View from bell tower facing south-southeast. ....	140
Plate 17: View east from bell tower across St Doulagh's Field. ....	140
Plate 18: View east towards chancel in nineteenth-century church.....	141
Plate 19: Vegetation encroaching cross in graveyard. ....	142
Plate 20: Nineteenth-century railings in graveyard. ....	142
Plate 21: Broken and fallen memorial in graveyard.....	143
Plate 22: Subsiding headstones in northwestern part of graveyard.....	143
Plate 23: Approach to Baptistry, facing north.....	144
Plate 24: Hawthorn tree in northern retaining wall of Baptistry and rectangular bath/trough. ....	145

Plate 25: View of exterior of Baptistry, facing west. ....	146
Plate 26: Interior of Baptistry with lime plaster, facing north. ....	147
Plate 27: Steps down to the vault and St Catherine's Well, facing west. ....	148
Plate 28: Interior of the vault showing refuse, facing south. ....	149
Plate 29: View of Baptistry and St Doulagh's Field, facing west. ....	150
Plate 30: View of grassland meadow in St Doulagh's Field, facing southwest. ....	150
Plate 31: Invertebrate in grassland meadow in St Doulagh's Field. ....	151
Plate 31: Wildflowers in St Doulagh's Field. ....	151
Plate 33: Members of Malahide Men's Shed at the St Doulagh's Heritage Week event. ....	152
Plate 34: Visitors learning about St Doulagh's during the Heritage Week event. ....	152

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviation/Acronym	Definition
<b>ACA</b>	Architectural Conservation Area
<b>ACO</b>	Architectural Conservation Officer
<b>AMS</b>	Archaeological Management Solutions
<b>CMF</b>	Community Monuments Fund
<b>CMP</b>	Conservation Management Plan
<b>CNT</b>	Charge Neutralization Technology
<b>DAHG</b>	Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
<b>DAHGI</b>	Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands
<b>DCHG</b>	Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
<b>DECC</b>	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
<b>DEHLG</b>	Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
<b>DHLGH</b>	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
<b>DIER</b>	Database of Irish Excavation Reports
<b>DTM</b>	Digital Terrain Model
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Agency
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FCC</b>	Fingal County Council
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information System
<b>GSI</b>	Geological Survey of Ireland
<b>ICOMOS</b>	International Council on Monuments and Sites
<b>IFC</b>	Irish Folklore Commission
<b>ITM</b>	Irish Transverse Mercator
<b>LECP</b>	Local Economic and Community Plan
<b>NBAP</b>	National Biodiversity Action Plan
<b>NBHS</b>	National Built Heritage Service
<b>NFC</b>	National Folklore Collection
<b>NHA</b>	National Heritage Area
<b>NIAH</b>	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
<b>NIICH</b>	National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage
<b>NLI</b>	National Library of Ireland
<b>NMI</b>	National Museum of Ireland
<b>NMS</b>	National Monuments Service
<b>NPWS</b>	National Parks and Wildlife Service
<b>OD</b>	Ordnance Datum
<b>OPW</b>	Office of Public Works
<b>OS</b>	Ordnance Survey
<b>OSi</b>	Ordnance Survey of Ireland
<b>pNHA</b>	Proposed National Heritage Area

Abbreviation/Acronym	Definition
<b>QUB</b>	Queen's University Belfast
<b>RHM</b>	Register of Historic Monuments
<b>RIA</b>	Royal Irish Academy
<b>RMP</b>	Record of Monuments and Places
<b>RPS</b>	Record of Protected Structures
<b>SAC</b>	Special Area of Conservation
<b>SMR</b>	Sites and Monuments Record
<b>SPA</b>	Special Protection Area
<b>SPAB</b>	Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
<b>TÉ</b>	Tailte Éireann
<b>TII</b>	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
<b>UAV</b>	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
<b>UCD</b>	University College Dublin
<b>UV</b>	Ultraviolet
<b>XRF</b>	X-Ray Fluorescence
<b>ZoN</b>	Zone of Notification

## Coordinate Reference System

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

## 1 Introduction

St Doulagh's ecclesiastical complex includes St Doulagh's Church,<sup>1</sup> a rectangular multi-period building that is still used as a place of worship (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The church is a Recorded Monument (RMP DU015-009001-), Protected Structure (RPS 0459) and is listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Building Survey (NIAH 11350016). The monuments that form part of the ecclesiastical complex include a medieval stone cross (RMP DU015-009002-), St Catherine's Well (RMP DU015-009003-; RPS 0459) and St Doulagh's Well (RMP DU015-009004-; RPS 0459; NIAH 11350017). In addition to the former ecclesiastical enclosure (RMP DU015-009005), the graveyard (RMP DU015-009006-), medieval architectural fragments (SMR DU015-009007-), a field system (SMR DU015-009008-) and an enclosure (SMR DU015-009009-).

St Doulagh's Church consists of multi-phased, two and three-storey medieval structure, which is the oldest Irish stone-roofed church that is still in use as a place of worship. The church is associated with the seventh century St Doulagh, whose feast day was celebrated on the 17 November. The earliest documentary evidence for St Doulagh is recorded in the early ninth-century *Martyrology of Onegus*, when he was referred to as *Duilech cain Clochair*, or 'beautiful Duilech of Clochar' (FCC 2008, Vol. 2, 177). The earliest portion of the structure is the eastern end, which dates from the mid-twelfth century and includes a vaulted stone roof and croft. The fifteenth-century central tower was added following the demolition of the western gable, while the later dressed-limestone church was built adjacent to the medieval buildings in 1864.

The church is set within a sub-rectangular graveyard (RMP DU015-009006-) that is defined by a curving masonry wall to the east and a low earthen bank to the north (see Figure 3). The enclosing wall displays a distinct curve in the southeast quadrant that is suggestive of part of the circuit of the former ecclesiastical enclosure (RMP DU015-009005), which has been identified through geophysical survey and archaeological excavation (Duffy 2015 & 2016; Nicholls 2009; Swan 1990). The graveyard, which is no longer used for burials, contains headstones dating from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries (FCC 2008, Vol. 2, 177), in addition to medieval architectural fragments (SMR DU015-009007-). A medieval stone cross (RMP DU015-009002-) that marks the entrance to the site was originally located in the graveyard. The simple Latin cross is of undecorated granite.

St Doulagh's Well (RMP DU015-009004-) and St Catherine's Well (RMP DU015-009003-) lie c.25–30m north of the church and graveyard in a field known as St Doulagh's Field. St Doulagh's Well, which is also called the Baptistry, is a circular stone-lined well below ground level that is enclosed by an

---

<sup>1</sup> ITM: 721051, 741104



octagonal building with a cone-shaped roof. Frescoes painted within the interior of the structure in 1609 were still evident in the late nineteenth century. St Catherine's Well, which adjoins the north wall of St Doulagh's Well, is an underground well enclosed by a rectangular vaulted building.

Additional archaeological monuments have been identified through geophysical survey in proximity to the church and graveyard (Nicholls 2009). These include a medieval field system to the south of the graveyard (SMR DU015-009008-) that comprises a sub-rectangular network of ditches, while a subcircular enclosure (SMR DU015-009009-) that is 60m in diameter, is located to the west of the church and graveyard (Figure 8).

## 1.1 Project Background

The Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's, with support from the Friends of St Doulagh's Church and Fingal County Council, have undertaken a number of actions to conserve, enhance and promote the heritage of the church, graveyard, holy wells and associated archaeological monuments of St Doulagh's over the past three decades. The Friends of St Doulagh's Church comprise parishioners of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's.

These actions included:

- In 1989, the former Taoiseach Charles Haughey established the St Doulagh's Conservation and Restoration Project to undertake restoration, maintenance and landscaping works. The works, which formed part of a FÁS scheme, included the refurbishment of the crenulation stone work of the medieval tower, replacing the stone flooring of the vestry, rebuilding of the avenue and graveyard walls and reparatory works to St Doulagh's and St Catherine's Well.
- A series of archaeological excavations were undertaken by Leo Swan on dates in 1989 and 1990 as part of the St Doulagh's Conservation and Restoration Project (Swan 1989 & 1990). The investigations were focused on the Baptistry and Vault (i.e. St Doulagh's Well and St Catherine's Well), the chancel and sections of the graveyard.<sup>2</sup>
- Roof repair works were carried out in 2003 and 2008 by under the direction of Margaret Quinlan Architect. Additional repairs were undertaken on the nineteenth-century slated roof and lightening conductors by Rainey Lightning Protection.
- In 2009, a magnetic gradiometry and electrical resistivity survey of the lands surrounding the church was commissioned by the Friends of St Doulagh's Church and carried by TARGET Archaeological Geophysics under licence 09R165 (Nicholls 2010). The survey recorded a substantial area of archaeological activity interpreted as comprising a network of enclosure remains, pits, gullies and associated settlement features. The core area of activity was defined by a broad curving ditch that was indicative of an early medieval enclosure (DU015-009005-) that was associated with the early Christian ecclesiastical foundation.

---

<sup>2</sup> Excavation summaries available at: <https://excavations.ie/report/1989/Dublin/0000855/> and <https://excavations.ie/report/1990/Dublin/0000966/> [Accessed: 28.08.24].

- Further consolidation works were carried out to the valley gutter between the medieval and nineteenth-century church in 2015.
- Also in 2015, Resurrecting Monuments, a community archaeology group based in Baldoyle, County Dublin investigated one of the enclosure ditches identified through the 2009 geophysical survey.<sup>3</sup> A fragment of animal bone recovered from the base of the ditch was radiocarbon dated to cal. AD 801–996 (Duffy 2016).<sup>4</sup>
- In 2018, a Conservation Engineer, Lisa Edden of CORA Consulting Engineers, carried out a Condition Survey of the medieval vaulted stone roofs, assessed water ingress through the roofs and masonry walls, and advised on intervention and repair works (Edden 2018).
- In 2019, Oldstone Conservation was engaged to undertake masonry repairs to the twelfth-century stone roof and identify and rectify the sources of water ingress to the church.<sup>5</sup> The works were managed by Lisa Edden. The project value was €80,000; €40,000 of the total was raised by the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's with the remainder provided through the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structures Fund through Fingal County Council. The project was awarded the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) John Betjeman Award (Ireland) for Repairs to a Faith Building.
- In 2020, a Conservation Plan for St Doulagh's was prepared by the Glebe Warden, Ken McAlister (McAlister 2020).
- In 2021, Resurrecting Monuments, Fingal County Council and the Friends of St Doulagh's worked with Lensmen Photography to produce a Matterport 3D Virtual Tour of St Doulagh's Church, St Doulagh's Well and St Catherine's Well.<sup>6</sup>

### **1.1.1 Conservation Management Plan**

In April 2024, the Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's and the Friends of St Doulagh's Church were awarded funding under Stream 2 of the Community Monuments Fund (CMF) for the preparation of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for St Doulagh's ecclesiastical complex (CMF Ref. CMF24–2–DF001). A CMP states why a place is significant and defines policies and actions to ensure that significance is protected. It provides a framework for managing the place to ensure cultural heritage significance is not lost in the future.

A cross-disciplinary team of cultural heritage, natural heritage and conservation specialists contributed to and assisted in the preparation of the CMP, which included:

- Archaeological Management Solutions (AMS);<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Available at: <https://resurrectingmonuments.wordpress.com/research-projects/> [Accessed: 28.08.24].

<sup>4</sup> Excavation summary available at: <https://excavations.ie/report/2015/Dublin/0024753/> [Accessed: 28.08.24].

<sup>5</sup> For more information see: <https://www.oldstone.ie/project/st-doulaghs-church-winner-of-the-spab-sir-john-betjemen-award-in-ireland-for-repairs-to-a-faith-building/> [Accessed: 28.08.24].

<sup>6</sup> Available at: <https://resurrectingmonuments.wordpress.com/st-doulaghs-church-3d-virtual-tour/> [Accessed: 28.08.24].

<sup>7</sup> Website: <https://www.ams-consultancy.com/> [Accessed: 30.10.24].

- Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants;<sup>8</sup>
- Goodwin-Arborist;<sup>9</sup>
- Centre for Geographic Information Science and Geomatics, School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast (QUB);<sup>10</sup> and,
- Southgate Associates.<sup>11</sup>

A key objective of this CMP is to provide a framework that enables the Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's, the Friends of St Doulagh's Church, Fingal County Council and the local community to conserve and preserve the archaeological, architectural, cultural, and natural heritage of the church, graveyard, holy wells and associated monuments in the ecclesiastical complex. This Management Plan also provides the necessary guidance to appropriately address issues around the site's conservation, access and interpretation.

## 1.2 Site Location

St Doulagh's is situated in the townland of Saintdoolaghs, which is in the civil parish of Balgriffin and barony of Coolock in north County Dublin (Figure 6 and Figure 7). The Irish form of Saintdoolaghs, *Clochar Dúiligh*, means the Stony Place of Doulagh (Table 1). The church and graveyard are located to the west of the R107 regional road that leads north from Dublin to Malahide.

For the purposes of the CMP a study area extending for a 500m radius from the site was included, which encompasses the townlands of Balgriffin, Bohammer, Burgage, Kinsaley and Saintdoolaghs (Table 1).<sup>12</sup>

**Table 1: Townlands in the study area.**

English Name	Gaelic Name	Suggested Meaning	Civil Parish	Barony
<b>Balgriffin</b>	<i>Baile Ghrífin</i>	The Townland/Homestead of the Griffin's <sup>13</sup>	Balgriffin	Coolock
<b>Bohammer</b>	<i>Both Umair</i>	The Hut/Booth of the Trough <sup>14</sup>	Balgriffin	Coolock
<b>Burgage</b>	<i>Burgáiste</i>	Burgage <sup>15</sup>	Balgriffin	Coolock

<sup>8</sup> Website: <https://flynnfurney.com/> [Accessed: 30.10.24].

<sup>9</sup> Website: <https://www.goodwin-arborist.com/> [Accessed: 30.10.24].

<sup>10</sup> Website: <https://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/GIS/> [Accessed: 30.10.24].

<sup>11</sup> Website: <https://www.southgateassociates.ie/> [Accessed: 30.10.24].

<sup>12</sup> Townland data from the Placenames Database of Ireland. Available at: <https://www.logainm.ie/en/> [Accessed: 23.08.24].

<sup>13</sup> Available at: <https://www.logainm.ie/en/17276> [Accessed: 23.08.24].

<sup>14</sup> Available at: <https://www.logainm.ie/en/17280> [Accessed: 23.08.24].

<sup>15</sup> Available at: <https://www.logainm.ie/en/17281> [Accessed: 23.08.24].

English Name	Gaelic Name	Suggested Meaning	Civil Parish	Barony
Kinsaley	<i>Cionn Sáile</i>	The Head/Headland of the Seawater <sup>16</sup>	Kinsaley	Coolock
Saintdoolaghs	<i>Chlochar Dúiligh</i>	St Doulagh's Stoney Place/Clocher <sup>17</sup>	Balgriffin	Coolock

### 1.3 Ownership and Access

St Doulagh's Church, graveyard and the adjoining field (St Doulagh's Field), are privately owned by the Representative Church Body of the Church of Ireland. The site forms part of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's and is managed by the Select Vestry committee.

Through an informal agreement between the Representative Church Body and Fingal County Council, St Doulagh's Field is part managed by Fingal County Council for use as a public amenity area. St Doulagh's Field is publicly accessible, while St Doulagh's Church is open for Anglican worship and services on Sunday mornings.

### 1.4 Preparation of the Conservation Management Plan

The St Doulagh's CMP is a working document that provides a framework to care for and conserve the values of the place based on the principles of collaboration and best practice. The process has been informed by international charters, conventions and policy documents, which set out principles and best-practice guidelines for the development and implementation of CMPs (see Table 3).

A CMP describes the special qualities that contribute to the cultural significance of a place and sets out objectives and policies to ensure that such significance is retained for the benefit of present and future generations. The provision of a CMP for places of cultural significance is an integral element of The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013<sup>18</sup> (hereafter the 'Burra Charter'), which is accepted as best international standard for the development of CMPs.

A fundamental principle of the Burra Charter is that places of cultural significance should be conserved for the benefit of both present and future generations.

The Burra Charter defines conservation as: "all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance' (Article 1.4). Article 3.1 of the Burra Charter promotes a cautious approach to conservation: "based on a respect for the existing fabric, use, associations and meanings. It requires a cautious approach of changing as much as necessary but as little as possible." Furthermore, Article 5.1

<sup>16</sup> Available at: <https://www.logainm.ie/en/16957> [Accessed: 23.08.24].

<sup>17</sup> Available at: <https://www.logainm.ie/en/17282> [Accessed: 23.08.24].

<sup>18</sup> Available at: <https://australia.icomos.org/wp-content/uploads/The-Burra-Charter-2013-Adopted-31.10.2013.pdf> [Accessed: 28.08.24].

states that “Conservation of a place should identify and take into consideration all aspects of cultural and natural significance without unwarranted emphasis on any one value at the expense of others.”

## **1.5 Scope of the Conservation Management Plan**

The CMP sets out to understand, foreground, retain and conserve the cultural heritage significance of St Doulagh's. The key objectives of the plan include:

- To give an understanding of St Doulagh's ecclesiastical complex across space and time.
- To increase awareness of the cultural heritage and natural heritage of the place.
- To assess the cultural significance of the place.
- To identify all factors, issues and vulnerabilities affecting the place.
- To develop conservation policies and actions for managing the cultural heritage and natural heritage of the place over a ten-year timeframe.
- The implementation of the management plan.
- Monitor the results and review the plan.

The CMP covers a ten-year timeframe (2025–2035). The Representative Church Body, the Friends of St Doulagh's Church, the Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's and all relevant stakeholders will review progress on the plan on an annual basis with a mid-period review after five years.

## **1.6 Gathering Information**

Information was gathered from a wide range of sources during the compilation of the CMP, including local, national and international legislation, charters and policy documents, as well as local knowledge and consultation with public and private stakeholders.

Sources that were consulted to inform, understand and assess the cultural heritage significance of St Doulagh's include:

- Published and unpublished research, surveys and excavation reports.
- Archives and online databases of the National Monuments Service (NMS), National Built Heritage Service (NBHS), National Museum of Ireland (NMI), National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), National Library of Ireland (NLI), the Heritage Council, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NMWS), the National Folklore Commission (NFC), and other relevant statutory heritage bodies.
- Analysis of cartographical sources, including historical maps and Tailte Éireann (TÉ) mapping services, as well as aerial and satellite imagery.
- Site assessments and surveys undertaken onsite, in advance of, and during the preparation of the CMP.

References to publications and online sources are provided in the footnotes and the accompanying bibliography. Table 2 (below), lists the key sources that were consulted during the preparation of the St Doulagh's CMP.

**Table 2: Sources consulted during the preparation of the CMP.**

Data	Source
<b>Background Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fingal Development Plan 2023–2029 Interactive Map Viewer.<sup>19</sup></li> <li>• <i>Fingal Historic Graveyards Project</i> (FCC 2008).<sup>20</sup></li> <li>• <i>Discovering Historic Fingal: A Guide to the Study of Monuments, Historic Buildings and Landscapes</i> (Bolton 2008).<sup>21</sup></li> <li>• Cartography: The Down Survey Maps (1656–58);<sup>22</sup> Ordnance Survey (OS) first edition six-inch (1837) and 25-inch (1908–11) maps, via QGIS (version 3.28) ArcGIS REST Servers and TÉ's Irish Townland and Historical Viewer.<sup>23</sup></li> <li>• Aerial and satellite imagery: Google Earth via Google Earth Pro; Digital Globe and via orthophotographs via TE's Geohive Map Viewer.<sup>24</sup> Bing Satellite and Google Satellite via QGIS (version 3.28) XYZ Tiles.</li> <li>• LiDAR Digital Terrain Model (DTM) Hillshade for the study area, available via the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) Open Topographic Data Viewer.<sup>25</sup></li> <li>• Soil associations via the Irish Soil Information System map viewer.<sup>26</sup></li> <li>• Bedrock geology and Quaternary sediments via the GSI Spatial Resources map viewer.<sup>27</sup></li> <li>• Dublin County Heritage section of the Heritage Council's Heritage Maps viewer.<sup>28</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>19</sup> Available at: <https://fingalcoco.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b97f2adda903489cadb77378565df29b> [Accessed: 22.10.24].

<sup>20</sup> Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/historic-graveyards> [Accessed: 16.10.24].

<sup>21</sup> Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2019-04/Discovering%20Historic%20Fingal-resource%20Guide.pdf> [Accessed: 14.10.24].

<sup>22</sup> Available at: <https://downsurvey.tchpc.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php> [Accessed: 16.07.24].

<sup>23</sup> Available at: <https://osi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=bc56a1cf08844a2aa2609aa92e89497e> [Accessed: 16.07.24].

<sup>24</sup> Available at: <https://webapps.geohive.ie/mapviewer/index.html> [Accessed: 16.06.24].

<sup>25</sup> Available at: <https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b7c4b0e763964070ad69bf8c1572c9f5> [Accessed: 16.07.24].

<sup>26</sup> Available at: <http://gis.teagasc.ie/soils/map.php> [Accessed: 16.07.24].

<sup>27</sup> Available at: <https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0ab2fbde2aac3c228> [Accessed: 16.07.24].

<sup>28</sup> Available at: <https://www.heritagemaps.ie/WebApps/DublinCountyHeritage/index.html> [Accessed: 14.10.24].

Data	Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legacies of Conflict Memory Map: A digital map developed by FCC Heritage Office and Archaeology and Built Heritage that shares stories collected through the Legacies of Conflict Fingal 1914–1945 project.<sup>29</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Archaeological Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record of Historic Monuments (RHM) for County Dublin.</li> <li>List of Preservation Orders held by the NMS, published in 2019.<sup>30</sup></li> <li>List of National Monuments in State Care: Ownership &amp; Guardianship, published by NMS for Dublin in 2009.<sup>31</sup></li> <li>Record of Monuments and Places (RMP): Statutory list of protected places and monuments with accompanying constraints maps, published by the NMS for the <i>County of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, County of Fingal, County of South Dublin and Dublin County Borough</i> in 1998.<sup>32</sup></li> <li>The NMS Historic Environment Viewer (HEV): Database of information on sites and monuments based on the RMP and the non-statutory Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).<sup>33</sup> 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 1997 (DHLGH 2022).</li> <li>Previous Archaeological Investigations: Database of Irish Excavation Reports (DIER) and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Digital Heritage Collection.<sup>34</sup></li> <li>Archaeological objects: NMI Topographical Files and Finds Database, which were viewed by appointment in the Antiquities Division, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.</li> </ul>
<b>Built Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fingal Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs).<sup>35</sup></li> <li>NIAH Building Survey and Survey of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes.<sup>36</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Natural Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity Maps, the data portal and mapping system of the National Biodiversity Data Centre.<sup>37</sup></li> <li>The NPWS Designations Viewer, which displays NPWS Designated Areas.<sup>38</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>29</sup> Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/legacies-conflict-fingal-1914-1945> [Accessed: 16.10.24].

<sup>30</sup> Available at: <https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/po19v1-all-counties.pdf> [Accessed: 17.07.24].

<sup>31</sup> Available at: <https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/pdf/monuments-in-state-care-dublin.pdf> [Accessed: 14.10.24].

<sup>32</sup> 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: 14.10.24].

<sup>33</sup> Available at: <https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/> [Accessed: 17.07.24].

<sup>34</sup> Available at: [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie) and <https://repository.dri.ie/catalog/v6936m966> [Accessed: 17.07.24].

<sup>35</sup> Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/record-of-protected-structures-and-acas-2023-2029.pdf> [Accessed: 14.10.24].

<sup>36</sup> Available at: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/> [Accessed: 17.07.24].

<sup>37</sup> Available at: <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Map> [Accessed: 16.10.24].

<sup>38</sup> Available at: <https://dahg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8f7060450de3485fa1c1085536d477ba> [Accessed: 17.10.24].

Data	Source
<b>Intangible Cultural Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Ireland (NIICH).<sup>39</sup></li><li>• Placenames Database of Ireland: <i>Logainm.ie</i>.<sup>40</sup></li><li>• The Irish Folklore Commission (IFC) Schools' Collection.<sup>41</sup></li></ul>

---

<sup>39</sup> Available at: <https://nationalinventoryich.tcagsm.gov.ie/national-inventory/> [Accessed: 16.10.24].

<sup>40</sup> Available at: <https://www.logainm.ie/en/> [Accessed: 16.07.24].

<sup>41</sup> Available at: <https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/schools> [Accessed: 16.10.24].



## 2 Existing Statutory, Policy and Guidance Framework

This management plan is informed by existing national and international legislation, policy plans, conventions, treaties, charters and guidelines, as well as the plans developed by Fingal County Council. These are outlined in Table 3 (below).

**Table 3: Relevant guidelines, policy and legislation.**

Data	Source
<b>Council of Europe Conventions and Directives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>European Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage (Granada Convention, 1985);<sup>42</sup></li> <li>European Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valetta Convention, 1992);<sup>43</sup></li> <li>Habitats Directive – Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora;<sup>44</sup></li> <li>European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention, 2000);<sup>45</sup></li> <li>Birds Directive – Council Directive 2009/147/EC on measures to protect Europe's wild bird species;<sup>46</sup></li> <li>Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention, 2011).<sup>47</sup></li> </ul>
<b>National Legislation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014;<sup>48</sup></li> <li>The Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2023;<sup>49</sup></li> <li>Heritage Act 1995, as amended;<sup>50</sup></li> <li>National Cultural Institutions Act 1997;<sup>51</sup></li> <li>Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended;<sup>52</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>42</sup> Available at: <https://rm.coe.int/168007a087> [Accessed: 26.08.24].

<sup>43</sup> Available at: <https://rm.coe.int/168007bd25> [Accessed: 27.08.24].

<sup>44</sup> Available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm) [Accessed: 27.08.24].

<sup>45</sup> Available at: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=treaty-detail&treatynum=176> [Accessed: 30.10.24].

<sup>46</sup> Available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm) [Accessed: 27.08.22].

<sup>47</sup> Available at: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=treaty-detail&treatynum=199> [Accessed: 30.10.24].

<sup>48</sup> For further information on the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014, including Amendments and Statutory Instruments made under the acts see: <https://www.archaeology.ie/publications-forms-legislation/legislation> [Accessed: 12.11.24].

<sup>49</sup> For further information on the Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2023, including Amendments and Statutory Instruments made under the acts see: <https://www.npws.ie/legislation> [Accessed: 12.11.24].

<sup>50</sup> Available at: <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1995/act/4> [Accessed: 12.11.24].

<sup>51</sup> Available at: <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1997/act/11/enacted/en/html> [Accessed: 12.11.24].

<sup>52</sup> Available at: <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2000/act/30/enacted/en/html> [Accessed: 24.11.24].

Data	Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023.<sup>53</sup></li> </ul>
<b>ICOMOS Charters and Declarations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ICOMOS Charter for the Protection and Management of the Archaeological Heritage, 1990;<sup>54</sup></li> <li>ICOMOS XI'AN Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas, 2005.<sup>55</sup></li> <li>The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013.</li> </ul>
<b>Policy Documents and Guidelines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage</i> (DAHGI 1999);<sup>56</sup></li> <li><i>Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> (DAHG 2011a);<sup>57</sup></li> <li><i>Built &amp; Archaeological Heritage: Climate Change Sectoral Adaption Plan</i> (DCHG 2019);<sup>58</sup></li> <li><i>A Living Tradition: A Strategy to Enhance the Understanding, Minding and Handing on of Our Built Vernacular Heritage</i> (DHLGH 2021);<sup>59</sup></li> <li><i>Archaeology in the Planning Process</i> (DHLGH/OPR 2021);<sup>60</sup></li> <li><i>Places for People: National Policy on Architecture</i> (DHLGH 2022a);<sup>61</sup></li> <li><i>Heritage Ireland 2030: A Framework for Heritage</i> (DHLGH 2022b);<sup>62</sup></li> <li><i>Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Plan 2023–2030</i> (NPWS 2023);<sup>63</sup></li> <li><i>National Inventory of Architectural Heritage Handbook</i> (DHLGH 2024).<sup>64</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>53</sup> Available at: <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2023/act/26/> [Accessed: 24.11.24].

<sup>54</sup> Available at: [https://www.icomos.org/images/DOCUMENTS/Charters/arch\\_e.pdf](https://www.icomos.org/images/DOCUMENTS/Charters/arch_e.pdf) [Accessed: 31.10.24].

<sup>55</sup> Available at: <https://www.icomos.org/images/DOCUMENTS/Charters/xian-declaration.pdf> [Accessed: 31.10.24].

<sup>56</sup> Available at: <https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/framework-and-principles-for-protection-of-archaeological-heritage.pdf> [Accessed: 27.08.24].

<sup>57</sup> <sup>57</sup> Available at: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Architectural-Heritage-Protection-Guidelines-for-Planning-Authorities-2011.pdf> [Accessed: 01.10.24].

<sup>58</sup> Available at: <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/75639/a0ad0e1d-339c-4e11-bc48-07b4f082b58f.pdf#page=null> [Accessed: 30.10.24].

<sup>59</sup> Available at: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2021/12/A-Living-Tradition.pdf> [Accessed: 30.10.24].

<sup>60</sup> Available at: <https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/archaeology-planning-process-pl13.pdf> [Accessed: 30.10.24].

<sup>61</sup> Available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/f9879-places-for-people-national-policy-on-architecture/> [Accessed: 30.10.24].

<sup>62</sup> Available at: <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/216633/d5e7370d-ee0e-41a8-81b5-9bc46bc75e17.pdf#page=null> [Accessed: 30.10.24].

<sup>63</sup> Available at: [https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/files/4th\\_National\\_Biodiversity\\_Action\\_Plan.pdf](https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/files/4th_National_Biodiversity_Action_Plan.pdf) [Accessed: 30.10.24].

<sup>64</sup> Available at: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2024/05/NIAH-Handbook-Edition-May-2024.pdf> [Accessed: 30.10.24].

Data	Source
<b>Fingal County Council Plans and Guidelines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Fingal Development Plan 2023–2029</i> (FCC 2023a);<sup>65</sup></li> <li>• <i>Fingal Community Archaeology Strategy 2019–2023</i> (Baker 2019a, 3);<sup>66</sup></li> <li>• <i>Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2023–2030</i> (FCC 2023b);<sup>67</sup></li> <li>• <i>Fingal County Council Local Economic and Community Plan 2023–2028</i> (FCC 2023c);<sup>68</sup></li> <li>• <i>Fingal Heritage Plan 2024–2030</i> (FCC 2024a);<sup>69</sup></li> <li>• <i>Fingal Tourism Strategy 2024–2029</i> (FCC 2024b);<sup>70</sup></li> <li>• <i>Fingal County Council Climate Action Plan 2024–2029</i> (FCC 2024c).<sup>71</sup></li> </ul>

## 2.1 Archaeological Heritage

The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valetta, 16.I.1992), was ratified by Ireland in 1997. It relates to the protection of archaeological heritage and includes the setting and context of archaeological sites. *Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* (DAHGI 1999), outlines guiding policies for the protection of the archaeological heritage of Ireland. Under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 and the Heritage Act 1995, Ireland is party to the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage.

The National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 are currently the primary legislation for the protection and preservation of archaeological sites, monuments, and objects in the Republic of Ireland. However, new legislation, entitled the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 (the Act), was enacted on 13 October 2023. When fully commenced, the Act will replace the existing National Monuments Act 1930 to 2014, and other related legislation, and introduce a range of new provisions to protect and conserve Ireland's historic heritage. In June 2024, the Minister of State with Responsibility for Nature, Heritage, and Electoral Reform commenced provisions within the Act. The provisions now in force allow for the establishment and maintenance of inventories of

<sup>65</sup> Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/development-plan-2023-2029> [Accessed: 16.10.24].

<sup>66</sup> Available at: <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/consultation/draft-fingal-community-archaeology-strategy-2019-2023> [Accessed: 22.10.24].

<sup>67</sup> Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2023-12/Fingal%20Biodiversity%20Action%20Plan%202023-2030.pdf> [Accessed: 16.10.24].

<sup>68</sup> Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/fcc-lecp-2023-2028.pdf> [Accessed: 22.10.24].

<sup>69</sup> Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/fingal-heritage-plan-2024-2030.pdf> [Accessed: 16.10.24].

<sup>70</sup> Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/final-fingal-tourism-strategy-mar24.pdf> [Accessed: 22.10.24].

<sup>71</sup> Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/fingal-county-council-climate-action-plan-2024-2029.pdf> [Accessed: 12.11.24].

relevant things of archaeological interest, architectural heritage, and wrecks of archaeological or historic interest.

Under the terms of the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is charged with a range of functions regarding the protection of monuments, wrecks, and archaeological objects, including the regulation of activities impacting the archaeological heritage. At present, an archaeological monument is protected in one of four ways:

- It is recorded in the RMP.
- It is registered in the RHM.
- It is subject to a Preservation Order or temporary Preservation Order.
- It is a national monument in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage or a Local Authority.

Different levels of protection apply to a monument depending on which of the four categories it falls under. Some Recorded Monuments are also national monuments, as defined by Section 2 of the National Monuments Act 1930. A national monument is a monument whose preservation is a matter of national importance. For national monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a Local Authority, or which are subject to a Preservation Order or temporary Preservation Order, the prior written consent of the Minister is required for any works at or in proximity to the monument.

When the owner or occupier of a property (or any other person) proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out, of any work at or in relation to a Recorded Monument or a Registered Monument, they are required to give notice in writing to the Minister two months before commencing that work. This is to allow the NMS of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) time to consider the proposed works and how best to proceed to further the protection of the monument.<sup>72</sup>

The NMS of the DHLGH maintains a publicly accessible database known as the SMR, available through the HEV. This contains current information on all known archaeological sites and monuments. The SMR sites dataset includes a Zone of Notification (ZoN) for sites and monuments. The zones do not define the exact extent of the monuments, but rather are intended to identify them for the purposes of notification under Section 12(3) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act (1994).

The National Monuments Acts can also protect elements of the architectural/built heritage or offer dual/parallel protection in conjunction with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

---

<sup>72</sup> See: <https://www.archaeology.ie/monument-protection> [Accessed: 18.09.24].

### 2.1.1 Designated Archaeological Heritage

There are fourteen designated archaeological heritage assets in the 500m study area that was included for the CMP (Table 4 and Figure 8; see also Appendix 1). St Doulagh's Church (RMP DU015-009001-; RPS 0459; NIAH 11350016) and St Doolagh's Well/the Baptistry (RMP DU015-009004-; RPS 0459; NIAH 11350017) are both Recorded Monuments that are also listed in the Fingal RPS, the SMR and the NIAH Building Survey (Figure 9 and Figure 10). St Catherine's Well is designated a Recorded Monument and Protected Structure (RMP DU015-009003-; RPS 0459), while the granite cross (DU015-009002-), ecclesiastical enclosure (DU015-009005-) and graveyard (DU015-009006-) are all Recorded Monuments that are also listed on the SMR.

The three remaining sites associated with St Doulagh's, comprising an architectural fragment (DU015-009007-), field system (DU015-009008-) and enclosure (DU015-009009-), are all listed in the SMR.

**Table 4: Designated archaeological heritage assets in the study area.**

Reference	Site Type	Designation	Townland	Distance <sup>73</sup>	ITM
<b>RMP DU015-009001-; RPS 0459; NIAH 11350016</b>	St Doulagh's Church	Recorded Monument; Protected Structure; listed in the SMR and NIAH Building Survey	Saintdoolaghs	0m	721054, 742100
<b>RMP DU015-009002-</b>	Cross	Recorded Monument; listed in the SMR	Saintdoolaghs	0m	721102, 742082
<b>RMP DU015-009003-; RPS 0459</b>	St Catherine's Well	Recorded Monument; Protected Structure; listed in the SMR	Saintdoolaghs	0m	721074, 742162
<b>RMP DU015-009004-; RPS 0459; NIAH 11350017</b>	St Doolagh's Well	Recorded Monument; Protected Structure listed in the SMR and NIAH Building Survey	Saintdoolaghs	0m	721072, 742150
<b>RMP DU015-009005-</b>	Ecclesiastical enclosure	Recorded Monument; listed in the SMR	Saintdoolaghs	0m	721043, 742091
<b>RMP DU015-009006-</b>	Graveyard	Recorded Monument; listed in the SMR	Saintdoolaghs	0m	721045, 742117
<b>SMR DU015-009007-</b>	Architectural fragment	Listed in the SMR	Saintdoolaghs	0m	721048, 742098
<b>SMR DU015-009008-</b>	Field system	Listed in the SMR	Saintdoolaghs	0m	721026, 742043

<sup>73</sup> Distance measurements are taken from the edge of the ZoN for the ecclesiastical complex of St Doulagh's to the edge of the ZoN for the archaeological heritage asset.

Reference	Site Type	Designation	Townland	Distance <sup>73</sup>	ITM
<b>SMR DU015-009009-</b>	Enclosure	Listed in the SMR	Saintdoolaghs	0m	721008, 742125
<b>RMP DU015-010----</b>	Enclosure	Recorded Monument; listed in the SMR	Kinsaley	290m	721457, 742277
<b>SMR DU015-011----</b>	Ring-ditch	Listed in the SMR	Saintdoolaghs	323m	721464, 741997
<b>SMR DU015-144----</b>	Ring-ditch	Listed in the SMR	Springhill	185m	720758, 742470
<b>SMR DU015-147----</b>	Earthwork	Listed in the SMR	Saintdoolaghs	276m	721408, 741919
<b>SMR DU015-148----</b>	Earthwork	Listed in the SMR	Saintdoolaghs	403m	721547, 741955

Five other designated archaeological sites occur in the 500m study area. These include an enclosure in the townland of Kinsaley that is listed in the RMP and the SMR (DU015-010----), as well as prehistoric ring-ditches in Saintdoolaghs (DU015-011----) and Springhill (DU015-144----) that are listed in the SMR. The two final sites are both earthworks (DU015-147----; DU015-148----) in the townland of Saintdoolaghs that are listed in the SMR.

## 2.2 Architectural Heritage

The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, 3.X.1985), was ratified by Ireland in 1997. In fulfilment of its obligations, Ireland legislated for the increased protection of the architectural heritage with the enactments of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 1999 (later superseded by Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000), and the Architectural Inventory (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999.<sup>74</sup>

The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), is Ireland's primary planning and development legislation and includes provision for the preservation and protection of the archaeological and built heritage. The Planning and Development Act 2024 (the Act) was signed into law by the President on 17 October 2024. The Act consolidates and revises the law relating to planning and development and repeals and replaces the Planning and Development Act 2000. The Act will undergo further amendment, as detailed regulations will be required to implement it in stages before it is fully commenced.

The importance of built heritage is outlined in *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (DAHG 2011a) and *Places for People: National Policy on Architecture* (DHLGH 2022a). This

<sup>74</sup> Available at: <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1999/act/19/enacted/en/print.html> [Accessed: 27.08.24].

policy sits within a broad environmental policy context that includes national and EU obligations and strategic objectives for enhanced amenity, heritage protection, amongst others.

Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), provides the legislative basis for the protection of architectural heritage. Under the terms of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999, the term 'architectural heritage' means: "*all*,

- a) structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings;
- b) groups of such structures and buildings; and
- c) sites which are of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest".

Under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Local Authorities are required to maintain a RPS as part of their Development Plan. These are structures recognised by the Local Authority as having special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest. The legal protections afforded to Protected Structures are set out in Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The RPS provides positive recognition of a structure's importance, and protection from adverse impacts. A Protected Structure, unless otherwise stated in the RPS, includes the interior of the structure, the land lying within its curtilage, any other structures and their interiors lying within that curtilage, plus all of the fixtures and features that form part of the interior or exterior of any of these structures. The protection also extends to any features specified as being in the attendant grounds including boundary treatments (DAHG 2011a, 21).

In addition, the scope of the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 includes monuments of architectural, historical or archaeological interest, allowing overlap with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The NIAH is a nationwide survey of post-1700 architectural heritage including buildings, structures and historic landscapes and gardens, carried out under the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. The NIAH comprises a Building Survey and a Survey of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes. These surveys are used to advise Local Authorities in relation to structures of interest within their functional areas. The purpose of the surveys is to highlight a representative sample of the architectural heritage of each county and to raise awareness of the wealth of architectural heritage in Ireland. Not all buildings and structures listed on the NIAH are legally protected through inclusion on the RPS.

### 2.2.1 Designated Architectural Heritage

There are fourteen designated architectural heritage assets in the 500m study area (Table 5; Figure 9 and Figure 10; see also Appendix 2). These include St Doulagh's Church (RMP DU015-009001-; RPS 0459; NIAH 11350016) and St Doolagh's Well/the Baptistry (RMP DU015-009004-; RPS 0459; NIAH 11350017), which are both Protected Structures and Recorded Monuments that are listed in the NIAH Building Survey and the SMR. St Catherine's Well is designated a Protected Structure and Recorded Monument (RMP DU015-009003-; RPS 0459),

**Table 5: Designated architectural heritage assets in the study area.**

Reference	Site Type	Designation	Townland	Distance <sup>75</sup>	ITM
<b>RMP DU015-009001-; RPS 0459; NIAH 11350016</b>	St Doulagh's Church	Recorded Monument; Protected Structure; listed in the SMR and NIAH Building Survey	Saintdoolaghs	0m	721054, 742100
<b>RMP DU015-009003-; RPS 0459</b>	St Catherine's Well	Recorded Monument; Protected Structure; listed in the SMR	Saintdoolaghs	0m	721074, 742162
<b>RMP DU015-009004-; RPS 0459; NIAH 11350017</b>	St Doolagh's Well	Recorded Monument; Protected Structure listed in the SMR and NIAH Building Survey	Saintdoolaghs	0m	721072, 742150
<b>RPS 0461; NIAH 11350018</b>	St Doolagh's Park gate lodge	Protected Structure; listed in the NIAH Building Survey	Saintdoolaghs	18m	721133, 742149
<b>RPS 461; NIAH 11350019</b>	St Doolagh's Park House	Protected Structure; listed in the NIAH Building Survey	Saintdoolaghs	180m	721277, 742011
<b>NIAH 2501</b>	St Doolagh's Park historic garden	Listed in the NIAH Garden Survey	Saintdoolaghs	13m	721216, 742001
<b>RPS 462; NIAH 11350029</b>	Milestone/ milepost	Protected Structure; listed in the NIAH Building Survey	Saintdoolaghs	126m	721059, 741950
<b>NIAH 11350027</b>	Lime Hill House gate lodge	Listed in the NIAH Building Survey	Saintdoolaghs	144m	721049, 741940
<b>NIAH 11350015</b>	Lime Hill House	Listed in the NIAH Building Survey	Saintdoolaghs	228m	720750, 742148
<b>NIAH 2488</b>	Lime Hill House historic garden	Listed in the NIAH Garden Survey	Saintdoolaghs	2m	720749, 742079

<sup>75</sup> Distance measurements are taken from the edge of St Doulagh's graveyard and/or St Doulagh's Field to the edge of the known extents of the architectural heritage asset.



Reference	Site Type	Designation	Townland	Distance <sup>75</sup>	ITM
<b>NIAH 11350020</b>	Wellfield House	Listed in the NIAH Garden Survey	Saintdoolaghs	222m	721116, 741886
<b>RPS 668; NIAH 11350021</b>	Wellfield House	Protected Structure; listed in the NIAH Building Survey	Saintdoolaghs	233m	721075, 741833
<b>RPS 790; NIAH 11350011</b>	Bohomer House	Protected Structure; listed in the NIAH Building Survey	Bohammer	160m	721004, 742393
<b>NIAH 11350012</b>	Bohomer gate lodge	Listed in the NIAH Building Survey	Bohammer	72m	721099, 742289

There is a milestone to the southeast of the graveyard, which is located along the Malahide Road, that is a Protected Structure and is listed on the NIAH Building Survey (RPS 462; NIAH 11350029). Additional Protected Structures include the country house (RPS 461; NIAH 11350019) and associated gate lodge (RPS 0461; NIAH 11350018) of St Doolagh's Park, Wellfield House (RPS 668; NIAH 11350021), and Bohomer country house (RPS 790; NIAH 11350011).

Four of the remaining assets are listed in the NIAH Building Survey: the former gate lodge to Lime Hill House (NIAH 11350027), Lime Hill House (NIAH 11350015), the latter Wellfield House (NIAH 11350020), and the former gate lodge to Bohomer (NIAH 11350012).

In addition, two of the built heritage assets are historic demesnes/gardens that are listed in the NIAH Garden Survey (Figure 10). These consist of the historic gardens of St Doolagh's House (NIAH 2501) and Lime Hill House (NIAH 2488).

## 2.3 Natural Heritage

Ireland aims to conserve habitats and species, through designation of conservation areas, as required under European and National legislation. The NPWS of the DHLGH is responsible for the designation of conservation sites in Ireland. The provisions of the European Union (EU) Habitats Directive and Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), as well as the Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2023 and Part 3 of the Heritage Act 2018 (S.I.No.15/2018),<sup>76</sup> form the basis for the protection and conservation of natural heritage. Since the initial 1976 Act, two acts in particular have strengthened nature conservation legislation – the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 (S.I.No.38/2000)<sup>77</sup> and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I.No.477/2011), as amended.<sup>78</sup>

<sup>76</sup> Available at: <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2018/act/15/enacted/en/html> [Accessed: 27.08.24].

<sup>77</sup> Available at: <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2000/act/38/enacted/en/html> [Accessed: 27.08.24].

<sup>78</sup> Available at: <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2011/si/477/made/en/pdf> [Accessed: 27.08.24].

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are prime wildlife conservation areas in the country, considered to be important on a European as well as Irish level.<sup>79</sup> The legal basis on which SACs are selected and designated is the EU Habitats Directive. The regulations endow each Local Authority with the obligation to ensure compliance with the Directive's requirements. Under the terms of the EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) Ireland is required to designate Special Protection Areas (SPAs), which are for the protection of listed rare and vulnerable species, regularly occurring migratory species and wetlands, especially those of national importance.<sup>80</sup>

The basic national designation for wildlife is the National Heritage Area (NHA), which is an area considered important for the habitats present, or which holds species of plants or animals whose habitat needs protection.<sup>81</sup> Proposed National Heritage Areas (pNHAs) were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995 but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated. These sites are of significance for wildlife and habitats. Under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, NHAs are legally protected from damage from the date they are formally proposed for designation, while pNHAs are subject to limited protection.

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>82</sup> requires Ireland to create national strategies and action plans to protect biological diversity. Ireland's *4th National Biodiversity Action Plan* (NBAP) sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023–2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature (NPWS 2023). The Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2023<sup>83</sup> provides that every public body, as listed in the Act, is obliged to have regard to the objectives and targets in the NBAP. The *Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2023–2030* (FCC 2023b) is a mechanism for translating some of the national objectives and actions into local biodiversity actions in Fingal.

### 2.3.1 Designated Natural Heritage

The NPWS maintains a publicly accessible database known as the NPWS Designations Viewer, which displays NPWS Designated Areas.<sup>84</sup> The closest designated European sites to the study area are the

---

<sup>79</sup> See: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac> [Accessed: 27.08.24].

<sup>80</sup> See: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa> [Accessed: 27.08.24].

<sup>81</sup> See: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/nha> [Accessed: 27.08.24].

<sup>82</sup> Available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf> [Accessed: 22.10.24].

<sup>83</sup> Available at: <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2023/act/25/enacted/en/pdf> [Accessed: 22.10.24]

<sup>84</sup> Available at: <https://dahg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8f7060450de3485fa1c1085536d477ba> [Accessed: 27.08.24].

Baldoyle Bay SAC (Site Code: 000199)<sup>85</sup> and Baldoyle Bay SPA (Site Code: 004016),<sup>86</sup> which are located c.2.4km due east of the CMP study area. In addition, the Northwest Irish Sea SPA (Site Code: 000208),<sup>87</sup> lies c.3.6km to the east.

The closest national sites include the Sluice River Marsh pNHA (Site Code: 001763) and Baldoyle Bay pNHA (Site Code: 000199), which lie c.1.75km to the northeast and c.2.6km to the east respectively. Feltrim Hill pNHA is located c.1.44km due north of the study area (Site Code: 001208), while Santry Demesne pNHA lies c.3.4km to the southwest (Site Code: 000178).

## 2.4 Fingal Development Plan

The *Fingal Development Plan 2023–2029* (FCC 2023a) sets out the statutory framework for land use, planning and sustainable development in Fingal, in addition to the aims, policies and objectives of the Local Authority in relation to cultural and natural heritage. These include a commitment to “ensure the conservation, management, protection and enhancement of the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage of the County, which are valuable and finite resources, through good management, sensitive interventions and sympathetic development” (*ibid.*, 371).

The chapters dealing with *Heritage, Culture and the Arts*, and *Green Infrastructure and Natural Heritage* contain a comprehensive list of policies and objectives relating to cultural, natural and intangible cultural heritage that are of relevance to the CMP. These are set out in Appendix 5.

## 2.5 Fingal Heritage Plan

The *Fingal Heritage Plan 2024-2030*, which is underpinned by the principle of shared responsibility for heritage, sets out a vision for the protection and celebration of Fingal’s heritage (FCC 2024a, 4). The actions of the Heritage Plan are set out under six strategic objectives, which include the following:

1. **Protecting out Place:** We will conserve, manage, protect, and enhance the archaeological, architectural, natural, and cultural heritage of the County, which are valuable and finite resources, through good management, sensitive interventions, and sympathetic development. We will protect our heritage and nurture a sense of place through collaboration and community engagement.
2. **Sharing our Stories:** Share stories of places and people, and connect with the whole community through high quality, relevant, interpretation and communication which is locally focussed, cocreated or community led.
3. **Climate Action for Heritage:** Take urgent climate action to ensure that we protect our past and our future.

---

<sup>85</sup> See: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000199> [Accessed: 27.08.24].

<sup>86</sup> See: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/004016> [Accessed: 27.08.24].

<sup>87</sup> See: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/004236> [Accessed: 27.08.24].

4. **All Our Voices:** Diverse voices, both today and from the past, make up the distinctive and unique multicultural heritage of Fingal, and are reflected in our music, oral histories and traditions. We will facilitate all voices, past and present being heard.
5. **Creating Knowledge:** Build knowledge through research, and audits to inform evidence-based approaches to heritage management, and authentic, relevant, and relatable interpretation and best practice guidance.
6. **Accessible Heritage:** Facilitate the local community and visiting tourists engaging with heritage by maximising access in terms of physical sites and assets, beyond social barriers, and in the digital context.

The actions and outcomes of relevance to this CMP in the Heritage Plan are detailed in Appendix 6.

## 2.6 Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan

The primary purpose of the *Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2023–2030* is to guide the work of those involved in the conservation of Fingal's natural environment by providing a framework for biodiversity action up to 2030, with the aim of halting the loss of biodiversity in Fingal (FCC 2023b, 14). The Biodiversity Action Plan sets out a programme of 100 actions that are centred around six topics:

- Delivery of the Ecological Network across Fingal;
- Building for Biodiversity and Managing Open Space for Biodiversity;
- Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation;
- Agri Environment Schemes and Rewilding;
- Research and Monitoring; and,
- Raising Awareness.

This Plan is based around the development of a spatial ecological network across Fingal that is integrated into the *Fingal Development Plan 2023–2029* (FCC 2023a), and also translates the actions in the *Fingal Climate Change Action Plan 2024–2029* (FCC 2024c) and *Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Plan 2023–2030* (NPWS 2023) into nature conservation action on the ground (FCC 2023b, 14). A summary of the biodiversity actions and objectives of relevance to the CMP are detailed in Appendix 7.

## 2.7 Fingal Community Archaeology Strategy

Community archaeology projects have the potential to foster social and cultural inclusion, engage new communities and built awareness of local archaeological sites and monuments, heritage and traditions (Baker 2019a, 3). The key aims of the *Fingal Community Archaeology Strategy 2019–2023* include:

- To foster collaboration between communities, agencies, networks and individuals through the medium of heritage, to build strong and cohesive communities in Fingal.
- To raise awareness and contribute to the understanding of the archaeological heritage of Fingal through community participation.

- To engage new communities and expand participation in community archaeology by providing improved access and information of the archaeological resource in Fingal.

The strategy demonstrates there is a demand for community archaeology projects in Fingal, which can include non-invasive archaeological techniques such as the Fingal Geophysical Survey Project (Baker 2019a, 12). The objectives of the Community Archaeology Strategy, which are still the adopted strategy of Fingal County Council, are detailed in Appendix 8.

## **2.8 Fingal Climate Action Plan**

The adaption baseline in the *Fingal County Council Climate Action Plan 2024–2029* demonstrates that the effects of climate change are already impacting the Fingal area at a significant rate and are likely to increase in their frequency and intensity in the coming years (FCC 2024c, 32–33). The Plan identifies current and future impacts arising from climate change risks, including extreme weather events, sea level rise and flooding. It sets out a range of actions across the six theme areas of Energy & Buildings, Transport, Flood Resilience, Nature Based Solutions, Circular Economy & Resource Management and Community Engagement.

The actions of relevance to the CMP are detailed in Appendix 9.

## **2.9 Fingal Local Economic & Community Plan**

The *Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan* (LECP) 2023–2028 sets out the vision, high-level goals and objectives needed to promote and support the economic, local and community development of Fingal over a six-year period (FCC 2023c, 8). The LECP is based on an integrated framework of six overarching themes, fifteen high-level goals and 31 supporting objectives (*ibid.*, 5). One of the themes relates to “Rich Arts, Culture & Heritage”, while Goal G5.1 strives to “Promote, protect, and grow the heritage of Fingal and ensure quality amenities for all” (*ibid.*, 10).

The priority areas for arts, culture and heritage includes boosting promotion and the overall brand of Fingal, enabling access so that visitors and residents are able to fully experience the available heritage assets, as well as the preservation and protection of Fingal’s heritage assets (FCC 2023c, 20). A summary of the LECP goals and objectives of relevance to the CMP is provided in Appendix 10.

### 3 Developing the Conservation Management Plan

#### 3.1 Previous Maintenance Works, Assessments and Surveys

A large number of repair and consolidation works, built heritage assessments, and archaeological surveys and investigations have been undertaken at St Doulagh's to date. These include works carried out on behalf of the Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's, St Doulagh's Heritage Project and the Friends of St Doulagh's Church, as well as initiatives undertaken and supported by Resurrecting Monuments, Fingal County Council and the NMS.

These works, which have informed the preparation of the CMP are summarised below.

##### *3.1.1 St Doulagh's Conservation and Restoration Project (1989 and 1990)*

In 1989, the former Taoiseach Charles J. Haughey, a resident of Abbeville House, Kinsealy, instituted a conservation and restoration project of St Doulagh's (McAllister 2020, 3). The works, which were undertaken as part of a FÁS local training initiative, with the assistance of the Office of Public Works (OPW), (the then) Dublin County Council, Collen Bros and Project Archaeologist Leo Swan included the following:

- Refurbishment of the crenulation stonework of the medieval tower.
- Replacement of the stone flooring in the vestry.
- Overhead electricity cables in St Doulagh's Field and the graveyard were undergrounded.
- The enclosing walls of the graveyard and those along the approach avenue to the church were rebuilt. The approach avenue was also resurfaced and kerbed.
- The Baptistry, which was almost derelict at the time, was conserved to its original form and the area around it was landscaped.
- St Doulagh's Field was grassed and landscaped by (the then) Dublin County Council and trees were planted along the western and northern perimeters of the site.
- A guide to the site was designed and published by St Doulagh's Heritage Project (St Doulagh's Heritage Project 1990).

The project was funded by the (then) National Heritage Council and managed by the St Doulagh's Heritage Committee. As part of the works, a series of archaeological investigations were undertaken in 1989 and 1990 by Project Archaeologist Leo Swan (Figure 11 and Appendix 3). The excavations focused on St Catherine's Well and St Doulagh's Well (The Baptistry), the churchyard, the chancel of the church and part of St Doulagh's Field (Swan 1989).

The 1989 programme of excavation uncovered the trough of the Baptistry, as well as an assemblage of late medieval and post-medieval coins, tokens and ceramics (Swan 1989, 2–3). In the churchyard, a trial cutting that was opened from the south wall of the nave to the southern boundary wall demonstrated that the soils in this part of the churchyard were disturbed and reduced during the

nineteenth-century construction works (*ibid.*, 4). Only the bases of grave trenches survived and any human remains recovered were disarticulated and extremely disturbed (*ibid.*). The final trench was opened in St Doulagh's field, which extended southwest from the Malahide Road to the western boundary of the site. Archaeologically significant deposits were noted in a number of areas, including stratified occupation debris, indications of both inner and outer enclosing ditches, and an area of burial. This latter contained at least six extended human inhumations in very shallow grave pits, directly beneath the plough-soil (*ibid.*, 4–7).

Two further phases of excavation were undertaken at the site in 1990, owing to the removal of tiled flooring in the chancel of the church and the opening of a drainage trench (Swan 1991, 24). A foundation trench was exposed along the south wall of the chancel that was cut into the boulder clay and covered with large flat paving stones that formed the base of the wall. At the lowest level, the remnants of an early burial that predated the construction of the wall were set into the boulder clay (*ibid.*).

To the north, the inner face of the chancel had been partly dismantled to allow for a large recess with a pointed arch, which was set into the thickness of the wall (Swan 1991, 24–25). Clearance here revealed a solid masonry plinth at a depth of 0.52m below the old flooring, upon which a complete skeleton was laid. The skull of the skeleton was set into an upright stone recess on the plinth, suggesting only the face of the individual could have been viewed prior to burial (*ibid.*).

A section of the outer enclosure ditch of the ecclesiastical enclosure (DU015-009005-) was also uncovered to the north of the vault associated with St Catherine's Well (Swan 1991, 24).

### **3.1.2 Roof Repair Works (2003, 2008 and 2015)**

In 2003 and 2008, repair works were carried out to the twelfth-century roof and walls of St Doulagh's Church to eliminate external biological growth that was facilitating water ingress (McAllister 2020, 3). These works were supervised by Conservation Architect Margaret Quinlan. Additional repairs were undertaken on the nineteenth-century slated roof and lightening conductors by Rainey Lightning Protection, while the valley between the medieval and nineteenth-century church was replaced in 2015 in an attempt to reduce further water ingress (McAllister 2020, 3).

### **3.1.3 Geophysical Survey (2009)**

In 2009, the Friends of St Doulagh's Church commissioned a geophysical survey of St Doulagh's Field and the lands to the south of the church associated with Lime Hill House. The gradiometer survey and resistance survey, which were funded by the (then) Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG), was carried out by John Nicholls of TARGET Archaeological Geophysics



(Licence 09R165). The key objective of the surveys was to define the nature and extent of buried archaeological remains associated with early settlement at the site (Nicholls 2010, 3).

The geophysical survey recorded definitive evidence for archaeological activity covering an area of c.2ha (Figure 12 to Figure 14). The remains comprised a network of enclosure remains, pits, gullies and associated features (Nicholls 2010, 10). The key features identified included the former ecclesiastical enclosure (RMP DU015-009005-; anomaly A1 in the survey), which was also noted by Leo Swan in his 1990 excavation (1991, 24). The survey demonstrated the enclosure is c.162m in diameter and extends around the northern, southern and western perimeter of the church and graveyard; its eastern limit is truncated by the Malahide Road (Nicholls 2010, 7). To the south of the church, a sub-rectangular network of ditches was identified (SMR DU015-009008-; anomaly A2 in the survey), that are possibly contemporaneous with the enclosure (*ibid.*).

The survey also detected the poorly defined fragmented remains of a possible subcircular enclosure (SMR DU015-009009-; anomaly A5 in the survey). The enclosure, which is c.60m in diameter and centred to the west of the church and graveyard, suggests the former locus of activity on the site was upslope and slightly further to the west (Nicholls 2010, 7). A possible circular dwelling was also recorded (anomaly A6 in the survey) to the southwest of the Baptistry and north of the church, which measures c.10m in diameter (*ibid.*, 7–8).

### **3.1.4 Community Archaeology Excavation (2015)**

In July 2015, Resurrecting Monuments undertook a week-long excavation that investigated a section of the outer ecclesiastical enclosure ditch in St Doulagh's Field (RMP DU015-009005-), as identified during the 2009 geophysical survey (Nicholls 2009). Resurrecting Monuments, which had its origins in the Royal Irish Academy (RIA)-funded Grassroots Archaeology, are a Community Group based in Baldoyle and the surrounding areas of southeast Fingal.<sup>88</sup> The 'Resurrecting Monuments: Communities Reclaiming Heritage' project was funded by the Irish Research Council's New Foundations Grant Scheme for 2014, and the project was coordinated by Grassroots Archaeology, in partnership with Professor Gabriel Cooney of University College Dublin (UCD) and the Baldoyle Forum, with support from Fingal County Council (Duffy 2016, 11).

A test trench measuring 1.5m by 8m was opened across the enclosure ditch, which revealed evidence of three main phases of activity (Duffy 2015). The earliest consisted of a V-shaped ditch that was 2.7m in width and 1.2m deep, cockle and mollusc shells were recovered from the basal fill, as well as an animal bone fragment that was radiocarbon dated to 853–935 cal. AD (UBA–30540). The ditch was

---

<sup>88</sup> For more information see: <https://resurrectingmonuments.wordpress.com/about/> [Accessed: 23.10.24].



sealed by a clay layer that produced sherds of medieval ceramics, including Leinster cooking ware and Dublin-type fine ware, a perforated stone bead and animal bones (*ibid.*, 12–15).

### **3.1.5 Structural Engineering Appraisal of St Doulagh's Church (2018)**

In 2018, Lisa Edden, a Conservation Engineer with CORA Consulting Engineers, undertook a Structural Engineering Appraisal of St Doulagh's Church on behalf of the Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's. Owing to the ingress of water through the vaulted stone roofs and thick masonry walls, the key objective of the appraisal was to investigate the source of and extent of water ingress through the structural masonry and advise on repair works (Edden 2018).

The Conservation Engineer highlighted several areas of immediate concern:

- The rear (west) roof was leaching lime and externally covered with biological growth (Edden 2018, 5). In addition, the ledges, horizontal surfaces and gable barges over the associated intramural spiral stairs were saturated with moisture (Edden 2018, 5–6).
- There was external biological growth on the high-level masonry of the tower and the gutters were poorly maintained (Edden 2018, 7).
- The front chancel roof showed extensive exterior staining, particularly in the area that was not sheltered by the tower. This was mimicked inside, with extensive biological growth both at the upper roof vault and the vault over the chancel (Edden 2018, 8–9).
- There was water ingress into the valley between the medieval and the nineteenth-century church, as water from the tower was draining down a pipe onto the roof valley between the structures (Edden 2018, 10).
- It was noted that the east window was altered sometime in the eighteenth or nineteenth centuries and now included an upper carved hood of Portland stone and a central mullion. The lower portion of original sandstone was deteriorating due to moisture ingress as a result of harder later pointing that was driving moisture out through the stone. In addition, the lack of a dash was also allowing water ingress (Edden 2018, 11).

The following interventions were recommended by the Conservation Engineer on the basis of the appraisal (Edden 2018, 12–14):

- Repointing of rear (west) roof, gable barges to stair and all horizontal surfaces.
- Plant growth in parapet of tower roof to be removed with biocide; plant growth in gutters and gutter outlets to be removed by hand.
- Reintroduction of roof vents to front chancel roof, as well as the use of ultraviolet (UV) heaters and cold air blowers.
- Repointing of front chancel roof, to include reseating of individual stones and removal of stones implanted in vents.
- Repair of valley gutter and rerouting works to lead down-pipe so that water drains directly to external hopper.
- Locally rake out all pointing around deteriorating stone in east window to medieval chancel and replace with a weak lime pointing.

- The stability of the stonework in the east window of the medieval chancel should be assessed; the elevation should be re-dashed at a later date.

### ***3.1.6 St Doulagh's Church Masonry Repairs (2019)***

In 2019, Oldstone Conservation carried out masonry repairs to the twelfth-century stone roof in order to rectify the sources of water ingress into the church.<sup>89</sup> The works were part financed through €15,000 grant aid from the 2018 Historic Structures Fund and €6,000 from the 2018 BHIS, as well as parish funding from the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's; the Friends of St Doulagh's Church raised the remainder of the required funds. The works were overseen by Lisa Edden, Conservation Engineer, in cooperation with the Fingal Heritage Officer, Christine Baker, and the Fingal Architectural Conservation Officer (ACO), Helena Bergin.

Scaffolding was erected around the medieval structure and its stone roof and the main route of water into the building was identified. The stone roof had previously been repointed with a shallow cementitious mortar that exhibited fine cracks throughout. This was removed and the voids beneath, as well as organic matter that had replaced the original bedding mortar, were exposed. The sloping roof sections were deeply repointed with a natural hydraulic lime mortar and localised re-bedding of the stonework was undertaken as required. The lead valley between the medieval church and Victorian nave was replaced and the downpipe from the tower was redirected out of this valley.

The cementitious mortar on the east window of the medieval chancel was removed and replaced with a soft hot lime mix. The spalled elements of stone were carefully removed and a shelter coat applied of lime binder and fine sand. Finally, a thick stone slate was inserted above the southern window of the chancel to protect it from water runoff.

In December 2020, SPAB awarded the Sir John Betjeman Faith Buildings Award (Ireland category) to St Doulagh's in recognition of the sensitive external stonework conservation.<sup>90</sup> Established in 1990, the award celebrates excellence in the repair of places of worship of all denominations and faiths. In particular, the SPAB judges were impressed by the intention of conservative repair, the retention of original fabric and the honesty of the repairs to the unique stone roof.

---

<sup>89</sup> For further information on the masonry repairs see: <https://www.oldstone.ie/project/st-doulaghs-church-winner-of-the-spab-sir-john-betjemen-award-in-ireland-for-repairs-to-a-faith-building/> [Accessed: 27.11.24].

A short film on the repair works and conservation is also available to view at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oudjOAxzX4&ab\\_channel=OldstoneConservation](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oudjOAxzX4&ab_channel=OldstoneConservation) [Accessed: 23.10.24].

<sup>90</sup> For more information on the award see: <https://www.spab.org.uk/news/faith-buildings-award-st-doulaghs-church-balgriffin-co-dublin> [Accessed: 23.10.24].

### 3.1.7 Conservation Plan (2020)

The *St Doulagh's Church: 2020 Conservation Plan* (McAllister 2020), was prepared by Ken McAllister on behalf of the Friends of St Doulagh's Church and the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's. The plan outlined the history and chronology of the place, detailed the key conservation and maintenance works undertaken onsite since the late 1980s, and examined the cultural significance of the place.

The Conservation Plan also listed a series of objectives that the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's wanted to undertake at St Doulagh's going forward (McAllister 2020, 7):

- To ensure the maintenance and management of the medieval and nineteenth-century buildings as a place of ongoing Christian worship within a rapidly expanding urban and suburban landscape.
- To conserve the culturally significant Early Christian ecclesiastical site, which is of National cultural heritage significance as detailed in the NIAH Building Survey.
- To develop the complex as a leading tourist attraction in Fingal.
- To increase the heritage profile of St Doulagh's, by making the church more accessible to the local community for events such as lectures, educational talks, musical events and recreational activities.

The plan also proposed a series of maintenance works, conservation actions and research goals that would be implemented as funding became available (McAllister 2020, 9–10).

- Resurfacing of approach avenue to church.
- Heating the church through the use of geothermal energy, or other renewable green energy installations such as heat pumps, solar photovoltaics (PV) and biomass boilers.
- Secondary glazing of the leaded windows in the nineteenth-century church.
- Treatment and repair of the tiles and timbers in the nineteenth-century church.
- Refurbishment of pews in the nineteenth-century church.
- Clean and repair the timber doors of church.
- Removal of internal biological growth on the medieval church building and tower.
- Reopening and glazing of the Prior's Window.
- Protection of the original clay floors in the medieval church and tower.
- Upgrade external security lighting and drains. Security and surveillance upgrade.
- Re-gravelling the path in graveyard and around church.
- Repairs to masonry walls of the Baptistry, the enclosing walls of the graveyard and the walls along the approach avenue to the church.
- Clearance and maintenance of excess overgrowth in graveyard.
- Sympathetic repair and resetting of fallen gravestones and memorials in graveyard.
- Provision of modern toilet facilities at church.

- Provision of permanent wheelchair access ramp, paving and disabled parking spaces.
- Improvements to safety and tourism signage.
- Provision of sympathetic parking surface in St Doulagh's Field to alleviate roadside parking.
- To further research links with local schools, colleges, universities and other learning institutions, as well as local history and archaeological groups, to gain a better understanding of the church, ecclesiastical site and associated remains through time.
- Publication of a new guide book and multi-lingual visitor leaflets.

### **3.1.8 Matterport 3D Virtual Tour of St Doulagh's Church and the Baptistry (2021)**

In July 2019, the community archaeology group Resurrecting Monuments, working in collaboration with the Friends of St Doulagh's Church and Lensman Photography, developed a Matterport 3D Virtual Tour of St Doulagh's Church<sup>91</sup> and the Baptistry.<sup>92</sup> The purpose of the virtual tour, which was supported by Fingal Heritage Office and funded by Fingal County Council, is to enable users to access an online self-guided tour of the church and holy well.<sup>93</sup>

The Matterport 3D technology allows users to examine every aspect of the building via 'Hotspots' that present additional expert detail on important aspects of the buildings.<sup>94</sup> Dr Rachel Moss, an Associate Professor in the Department of History of Art and Architecture, Trinity College Dublin provides the introduction to St Doulagh's, while Irish Sign Language interpretation videos are also provided for the accompanying videos.<sup>95</sup>

## **3.2 Surveys Undertaken as Part of the CMP Process (2024)**

A series of site assessments and surveys were also carried out in 2024 as part of the CMP process. These include:

- The Project Archaeologist, Dr Kim Rice of AMS, carried out Walkover Surveys, photographic surveys and inspections of the site on dates on the 8 May, 28 May, 22 August, 28 August and 8 October 2024.
- The Conservation Engineer, Chris Southgate, and AMS Built Heritage Specialist, Ciara O'Flynn, carried out inspections of the site and a photographic survey on 28 May and 10 September 2024, which informed the Condition Survey of St Doulagh's Church and the Baptistry.

---

<sup>91</sup> The virtual tour of St Doulagh's Church is available at: <https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=JwkTbJtWCx7&play=1> [Accessed: 23.10.24].

<sup>92</sup> The virtual tour of the Baptistry is available at: <https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=JwkTbJtWCx7&play=1> [Accessed: 23.10.24].

<sup>93</sup> See: <https://www.fingal.ie/news/virtual-tour-st-doulaghs-church-launched> [Accessed: 23.10.24].

<sup>94</sup> For more information see: <https://resurrectingmonuments.wordpress.com/st-doulaghs-church-3d-virtual-tour/> [Accessed: 23.10.24].

<sup>95</sup> See: <https://www.lensmen.ie/360-matterport-virtual-tours-time-lapse/virtual-tour-for-st-doulaghs-church/> [Accessed: 23.10.24].

- An Arboricultural Assessment to assess the condition of trees onsite was undertaken by Arboriculturist Roy Goodwin of Goodwin Arborists on 20 August 2024.
- Dr Thorsten Kahlert, a Senior Technician with the Centre for Geographic Information Science and Geomatics in the School of Natural and Built Environment, QUB, undertook an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)-based scan of the exterior of St Doulagh's Church on the 28 August 2024. Additionally, an interior and exterior laser scan of the church was carried out using a Leica BLK360.
- Also on 28 August 2024, Liamóg Roche, the Geophysical Remote Sensing Director with AMS, and Jeff O'Neill, Geophysical and Remote Sensing Supervisor, carried out a UAV-based thermal imaging survey of the interior of the Baptistry and a UAV-based LiDAR Survey of St Doulagh's Field. The survey utilised a DJI Zenmuse H20T high resolution orthophotography camera mounted on a DJI Matrice 300 RTK to capture sequential thermal and Red, Green Blue (RGB) imagery for the creation of orthorectified imagery. This was achieved using the captured RGB imagery and the 3D modelling software Agisoft Metashape Professional to produce orthorectified imagery. A follow up survey using GPS was undertaken on 24 October 2024 to obtain control points in St Doulagh's Field.
- Ian Douglas, an Ecologist and Environmental Consultant with Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants, carried out a Bat Survey on the night of 19 September 2024 and a baseline Ecology Survey on 24 September 2024. These surveys informed the Biodiversity Management Plan for St Doulagh's.
- Sara Marandola, Built Heritage Specialist with AMS, undertook a site inspection, photographic survey and site walkover on 1 November 2024. The site inspection focused on the condition of the memorials, headstones and grave slabs in the graveyard and the broken string course/drip course in the Baptistry. In addition, the condition of the medieval clay floors in the tower and chancel and the Victorian tiles in the nave were assessed.
- Sara Marandola also produced CAD drawings of the church and holy wells from the 3D model that was generated from the laser scan of the church and UAV-based thermal imaging survey of the Baptistry. In addition, she generated ground plans of the graveyard, church and holy wells from the various UAV-based surveys.

### 3.3 Consultation

A range of public and private stakeholders were consulted during the planning and preparation of the St Doulagh's CMP. The Friends of St Doulagh's Church acted as the principal platform for consultation to understand the views of the local community. The consultation included two Heritage Week events, on the 18 and 22 August 2024, that were organised and facilitated by the Friends of St Doulagh's Church.<sup>96</sup>

A list of stakeholders is provided in Appendix 12.

---

<sup>96</sup> For more information see: <https://www.heritageweek.ie/event-listings/conducted-tours-of-st-doulaghs-church-and-historical-talks> [Accessed: 27.11.24].

### 3.4 Developing Policies

The development of conservation and management policies was undertaken following consideration of the policy, framework and background information for the place, in consideration of the current condition of the archaeological heritage, architectural heritage and natural heritage assets of the place, and with consideration of the values and significance attributed to the place by parishioners, stakeholders and the local community.

Proposed policies for conserving, and where possible enhancing the significance of the church, graveyard, holy wells and associated monuments, including the protection of natural heritage assets, are set out in detail in Section 8, but can be summarised under four headings: 'Protection', 'Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance', 'Research and Education' and 'Access and Interpretation'.

These policies aim to assist the Representative Church Body, the Friends of St Doulagh's Church, the Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's, and Fingal County Council, as well as other key stakeholders, in the protection and enhancement of the archaeological, architectural, historical, aesthetic, social and ecological character and setting of the place, while also allowing for wider understanding of its cultural heritage values.

With the collaborative agreement of these policies by the relevant specialists and stakeholders, the process of developing the CMP is completed for this phase. The implementation of the policies will be undertaken over the next ten years (2025–35), in consultation with the NMS, NBHS, Fingal Heritage Officer, Fingal Biodiversity Officer, the Fingal ACO and other relevant statutory and non-statutory agencies, as appropriate.

## 4 Description of the Monuments

### 4.1 Early Medieval Subsurface Archaeology

#### 4.1.1 Ecclesiastical Enclosures

The enclosing wall around the graveyard and St Doulagh's Church has a distinct curve in the southeast quadrant, while there were traces of bank visible to the north of the graveyard up to the 1970s (FCC 2008, Vol. 2, 180). These features are suggestive of elements associated with the former ecclesiastical enclosure of the early medieval foundation of St Doulagh (RMP DU015-009005-) (Figure 8).

Definitive evidence for the presence of a substantial ecclesiastical enclosure was demonstrated through the results of the 2009 geophysical survey (Licence 09R165), which employed magnetic gradiometry and electrical resistivity techniques (Nicholls 2010, 4). The survey lands covered an area of c.2ha that included St Doulagh's Field and the property to the south and southwest of the church associated with Lime Hill House (Figure 12).

The survey revealed evidence for a subcircular inner enclosure that is c.60m in diameter (SMR DU015-009009-), and centred to the west of the church and graveyard (Nicholls 2010, 7). The location and character of the enclosure suggested that the original early medieval church was located on top of the hill and slightly to the west-northwest of the graveyard (Figure 13 and Figure 14). The inner enclosure is in turn surrounded by a substantial outer enclosure (RMP DU015-009005-), which is c.162m in diameter and extends through St Doulagh's Field, as well as the fields to the south and west and northwest of the church and graveyard (*ibid.*). The eastern extent of the outer enclosure is truncated by the Malahide Road.

In 1989, Leo Swan noted a substantial ditch cut into the natural boulder clay in the northern and western parts of St Doulagh's Field (Licence E00508), which probably corresponds to the outer enclosure ditch as defined in the geophysical survey. The ditch section excavated in the northeast of the field was located in proximity to the Malahide Road, where it was c.0.8m deep and contained a light brown deposit flecked with fragments of shell and animal bone (Swan 1989, 5). A larger section of the outer enclosure ditch was exposed in the western part of St Doulagh's Field, where it extended from southwest to northeast for a distance of 15m and displayed a V-shaped profile with steeply sloping sides. The ditch was 2.5m in maximum width and 1m deep (*ibid.*, 6–7).

Swan also recorded nine grave cuts along the western edge of St Doulagh's Field that contained human burials; the inhumations occurred at depths of 0.2–0.35m below the topsoil. The burials were disturbed during the excavation of a trench for electrical cables without archaeological supervision (Swan 1989, 6). Based on the orientation of the exposed sections of the outer enclosure ditch, Swan

posited that the graves were early medieval and had been interred just inside of the curving line of the outer enclosure ditch (*ibid.*, 7).

In 2015, Resurrecting Monuments excavated a trench across a section of the outer enclosure ditch in St Doulagh's Field (Licence 15E0329; see also Figure 11), which revealed evidence of three main phases of activity (Duffy 2015). The trench was located to the east of St Doulagh's Well and St Catherine's Well, and to the north of the church and graveyard. The earliest remains uncovered during the excavation consisted of the enclosure ditch that extended from east to west and had a V-shaped profile that was 2.7m in width and 1.2m deep (*ibid.*, 10–11).

The basal ditch fill produced cockle and mollusc shells and fragments of animal bone; one of the pieces of animal bone was radiocarbon dated to 853–935 cal. AD (UBA–30540). The ditch was sealed by a clay layer that produced sherds of medieval ceramics, including Leinster cooking ware and Dublin-type fine ware, a perforated stone bead, animal bones and some human teeth (Duffy 2015, 12–15).

#### **4.1.2 Associated Settlement Activity**

The geophysical survey also recorded evidence for an array of archaeological activity within the confines of the outer ecclesiastical enclosure, which consist of a network of other enclosure elements, as well as a dense scatter of pits, kilns gullies and associated features (Figure 13 and Figure 14). The remains include a sub-rectangular field system (SMR DU015-009008-) to the south of the church that extends south to the limit of the outer ecclesiastical enclosure (Nicholls 2010, 7). Over time, the early medieval field system evolved in tandem with changing patterns of land-use at the site through to the nineteenth century, where there is a correlation between the medieval field system and the field boundary alignments shown on the first-edition OS six-inch map (*ibid.*).

The geophysical survey also demonstrated that numerous pits and possible kilns (c.1.5m–4m in diameter) occur in association with the ditched remains (Nicholls 2010, 13). These features correlate with the evidence for occupation and industrial activity that was noted during the 1989 programme of excavated in the northern and western parts of St Doulagh's Field (Swan 1989, 5–7). In addition, the geophysical survey recorded a circular enclosure to the southwest of St Doulagh's Well that measures 10m in diameter and is suggestive of a possible early medieval residential dwelling (Nicholls 2010, 8).

## **4.2 St Doulagh's Church**

St Doulagh's Church (RMP DU015-009001-; RPS 0459; NIAH 11350016) consists of two conjoined rectangular structures (Figure 1). To the south, is the older medieval part of the church that comprises a complex amalgam of unique features that attest to the long history of the structure (Harbison 1982,



27; Moss 2003, 123). The church, which is rating as being of national significance in the NIAH Building Survey (see Appendix 2), is still in use for Church of Ireland worship.

The medieval church consists of a multi-phased two and three-storey construction that dates from the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries. It includes a steeply pitched two-storey masonry roof and masonry vaulted chancel that is intersected by a square three-storey tower (Figure 2). The tower provides access to the multiple levelled and vaulted rear vestry rooms, which are also roofed in steeply pitched masonry (Edden 2018, 2). To the north of the medieval church is the Victorian nave and chancel, which was constructed in 1864.

#### *4.2.1 Twelfth-Century Church*

The stone-roofed oratory, which is at the southeast end of the building, dates from the mid-twelfth century and is the earliest extant part of the church (Moss 2003, 123; McAllister 2008, 11). The proposed twelfth-century date for the oratory is based on the presence of a steeply-pitched stone roof that is supported by a barrel vault below (Moss 2003, 123). The vaulted stone roof, which has a pitch of 68 degrees, is stylistically comparable to Cormac's Chapel on the Rock of Cashel, County Tipperary, St Kevin's in Glendalough, County Wicklow and St Columb's in Kells, County Meath (Leask 1955, 40; Harbison 1982, 33).

The church masonry consists of roughly coursed rubble limestone of irregular and roughly squared blocks with indications for the moderate use of spalls and tooled quoins (Ó Carragáin 2005, 112). There is evidence for the liberal use of mortar, while traces of dash suggest the external walls were originally rendered (Edden 2018, 2). The roof is composed of irregular cut-stone tiles (McAllister 2008, 12). The presence of an arcade of two arches in the northwestern corner of the oratory suggests that a contemporaneous aisle may have been built to support the local congregation to the north of the church (Moss 2003, 123–24; Harbison 1982, 34).

The window and door openings are predominantly occupied by later inserted features (Moss 2003, 123). On the ground floor, the oratory is lit with three two-light and one single-light sandstone mullioned windows. The double light east window with Y-tracery and sandstone jambs, while thirteenth century in date, was inserted during the nineteenth-century restoration works (Edden 2018). It is likely that the original east window was somewhat smaller. In addition, the south window is also probably a later addition, as it breaks the roof line of the oratory (Harbison 1982, 33).

A croft is located on the first floor, which until the fifteenth century, would have been accessed through a ceiling ope that was reached via a wooden ladder (McAllister 2008, 13). It is probable, as was commonly a practice on the Continent, a recluse in priestly orders used the 'anchorhold' of the church and croft as both a chapel and a residence (Ó Carragáin 2010, 268).

#### 4.2.1.1 Excavation

Parts of the oratory were archaeological investigated following the removal of tile flooring as part of the 1990 phase of repair works (Swan 1991). The deposits underlying the Victorian tiles were substantially disturbed and consisted of an admixture of mortar, rubble and disarticulated human remains to a depth of 0.75m below ground level (*ibid.*, 24). Finds from the deposit included two fragments of medieval roof tiles, one of which was deeply scored and covered with a green glaze (*ibid.*).

A small trench was excavated along the south wall of the oratory to investigate the methodology that was utilised to construct the interior walls of the oratory. The investigation demonstrated that the wall foundation was cut into the boulder clay to a depth of 0.55m. A grave containing partial skeletal remains was cut into the boulder clay; this inhumation predated the construction of the twelfth-century church (Swan 1991, 24). A rough paving of large flat stones, which formed the base of the south wall, were laid atop a mantle of pebbles along the base of the wall trench. A foundation of rough uncoursed masonry was constructed on top of the paving to a height of 0.4–0.45m, with the masonry of the wall proper above this (*ibid.*).

A second trench was opened against the north wall of the oratory, in the area of the inserted tomb recess with pointed arch. This revealed that the wall had been partly dismantled during the insertion the recess into the wall (Swan 1991, 24). At a depth of 0.52m below ground level a complete late medieval burial was uncovered that was laid on a solid masonry plinth. The individual's skull was set into a stone recess that was placed in an upright position on the plinth (*ibid.*).

#### 4.2.2 Fifteenth-Century Tower

A rectangular bell tower surmounts the western end of the twelfth-century oratory and a three-storey tower house abuts the west wall that is also surmounted by a steeply-pitched stone roof (Moss 2003, 123). These later additions were added in the fifteenth century, when the earlier west gable of the oratory was demolished and the church extended (Harbison 1982, 34). The complex, which includes two intramural stairs, is 15m in length, 6m in width and 13m high to the top of the rear roof and 18m tall to the top of the tower (Edden 2018).

The tower projects above the roofline and has stepped battlements (Figure 2 and Figure 4). A mural chamber that is carried on a retaining arch and squinch<sup>97</sup> projects above the ground floor entrance along the south wall. The tower masonry comprises tooled ashlar limestone that is well-coursed in the central section, but includes more irregular blocks at the east end (McAllister 2008, 15). In the upper

---

<sup>97</sup> A squinch is a structural element used to support the base of a circular or octagonal dome that surmounts a square-plan chamber. Squinches are placed to diagonally span each upper corner where the walls meet.

levels, limestone rubble and lesser quality ashlar masonry was used, while the parapets were constructed from large blocks of cut limestone (*ibid.*). The join between the twelfth and fifteenth-century phases of masonry is hidden behind a small buttress to the first-floor level on the south side of the tower (*ibid.*, 15).

To the west of the tower, the masonry is predominantly of limestone rubble, that while later, is stylistically comparable to the masonry in the eastern oratory (McAllister 2008, 15). The western structure includes two separate low-vaulted rooms below the croft and the level of the associated stone roof is higher than that of the oratory (Harbison 1982, 30). The tower-house-like residence included facilities such as an en-suite latrine, now blocked internally, its chute is visible on the west façade. Two fireplaces were also included and their combined flues was disguised as one of the battlements of the tower (Moss 2003, 124).

At ground floor level, to the west of the oratory is a small room with its own entrance (Figure 1). The chamber, which is referred to as the 'hermit's cell', is reputed to be a burial place of the church founder and/or anchorites (Stubbs 1897, 459). Access to the croft and mezzanine is via two separate stone stairways. The intramural stair that leads to the crofts and upper floor of the tower is accessed at ground floor from the oratory. It crosses through the walls, ascends to the crofts and then extends through the tower walls to reach the top floor at the east end (McAllister 2008, 15). The second set of stairs lead from the 'hermit's cell' to the mezzanine on the first floor (*ibid.*, 16)

The windows lighting all but the tower are generously proportioned; three of the windows include seats (Moss 2003, 124). The east end of the south wall is lit by a sandstone tracery window with a pointed arch, while the west chamber off the first floor is lit by a trilobe cusped window and another above this is made of calcareous tufa. One of the rooms, now at mezzanine level, had openings that allowed a view into the oratory (now blocked) and a hagiroscope or squint<sup>98</sup> (now also blocked) that would have provided a view into the area where the nineteenth-century church now stands (*ibid.*).

#### 4.2.3 Seventeenth Century Alternations

Later additions to the structure that possibly date to the early seventeenth century, include a series of rectangular double-splayed windows at ground-level that are located in the west and north sections of the residential section and in the oratory (Moss 2003, 125). This type of double-splayed opening is common in fortified late medieval structures and was used as a gunport (*ibid.*). A new stair was

---

<sup>98</sup> A hagiroscope or squint is a small splayed opening at eye-level through an internal masonry dividing wall of a church in an oblique direction giving worshippers a view of the altar. Squints were also made in external walls so that lepers and other non-desirables could see the service without coming into contact with the rest of the populace, they are termed leper windows or lychnoscopes.

inserted in the southwest corner at this time that blocked-off the existing latrine. In addition, an earlier stair located in the southeast of the tower house was removed and a murder hole was placed over the entrance lobby (*ibid.*).

#### **4.2.4 Eighteenth-Century Church and Steeple**

In 1775, a new church was built that adjoined the medieval church and tower to the north (McAllister 2008, 2; D'Alton 1938, 222). It is possible that it replaced an earlier medieval nave to the north of the oratory (Moss 2003, 124). The only remaining visible evidence for the late eighteenth-century church is the former location where its roof adjoined the north side of the tower (McAllister 2008, 22).

A hexagonal steeple was also added to the top of the fifteenth-century tower at some stage in the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century (D'Alton 1838, 223). There are four large corbels in the upper levels of the tower that possibly held the weight of the steeple, which was removed sometime in the early to mid-nineteenth century (McAllister 2008, 28).

By 1860, the later church was in a state of disrepair (Walsh 1887). The structure was demolished in 1861 as part of the Sloan Conservation Plan. Sloan, an architect, had described the eighteenth-century structure as “a deformity offending his experienced and practical eye” (McAllister 2008, 22). It was replaced in 1864 with a simple Victorian church that was designed by William Henry Lynn (*ibid.*, 3).

#### **4.2.5 Nineteenth-Century Church**

The Victorian nave and chancel, which measure 18m by 9m, was built onto the north end of the medieval church in 1864 (Figure 1). It is a simple single-storey building with a single span pitched natural slate roof. It has a three-bay nave and additional single bay chancel attached to the east with single light pointed arched openings (FCC 2008, Vol. 2, 181).

It is constructed of roughly dressed squared limestone with ashlar dressings to the openings (Edden 2018, 2). It has a pointed arched opening with a timber battened door. There are two single light windows and a small rose window to the west gable (FCC 2008, Vol. 2, 181).

### **4.3 St Doolagh's Well**

St Doolagh's Well (RMP DU015-009003-; RPS 0459; NIAH 11350017), which is locally known as the Baptistry, lies downslope and immediately south of St Catherine's Well (RMP DU015-009003-; RPS 0459) (Figure 3). The well, which is rated as being of national significance in the NIAH Building Survey (see Appendix 2), was originally dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary (D'Alton 1838, 224).

The outer structure comprises a sunken stone enclosure. Within this is a low octagonal structure with a cone-shaped roof that encloses the circular stone-lined St Doolagh's Well, which is fed by a karst

spring. The cruciform structure of the Baptistry includes a domed hipped roof and four symmetrical chambers; the arched section is constructed in limestone (Southgate *et al.* 2024, 8). The octagonal building, which is of random rubble limestone, is 1.4m in width, while its walls are 0.9m thick. The interior is lit by four unglazed cross-shaped windows and the arched roof is lime plastered. Externally, above a string course, there are projecting gables to the north, east, south and west.

The octagonal wellhouse is probably modelled on an early Christian baptistery; but there are no parallels for the structure in Ireland (Ó Carragáin 2010, 198). It has been suggested that it may have been inspired by a visit to the European mainland during the post-medieval period (Moss 2003, 125). Outside the building is an open-air bath/trough that measures 1.8m by 0.75m and is 0.6m deep, with stone seating around the trough. It is probable that the bath/trough was used for full adult baptismal immersion (Anon. 1914, 268).

The Baptistry is bounded by retaining walls of recent reconstruction. The entrance is in the south of a sunken court; limestone steps and flags lead to the main door on the north elevation, while the surrounding finish is cobbled. A small mature hawthorn tree is rooting out of and incorporated into the northern retaining wall of St Doolagh's Well/the Baptistry (see Goodwin, 2024, tree number 9830). Folklore recorded in the IFC Schools' Collection in 1937 note the thorn tree (Vol. 0792, 136–37 & 230–32), and record how pilgrims to the well tied pieces of cloth to the tree as a sign the water had cured their sore eyes (Vol. 0792, 126–28; see also Appendix 4).

#### 4.3.1 Internal Frescoes

In 1609, Patrick Fagan, of Feltrim decorated the interior of the Baptistry with frescoes (Walsh 1888, 233). These included the descent of the Holy Ghost upon the Apostles on the ceiling, while St Patrick, St Brigid, St Columcille and St Doulagh were painted on the sides, with St Doulagh shown in a hermit's garb (Ronan 1941, 21). A marble slab was also installed on the wall that bore a Latin inscription commemorating the curative effects of the well's water.

*Piscinae Solymis clarae decus efferat alter, Et medicas populus jactet Hebraeus aquas, Grata Deo patrium celebrat Fingallia fontem Doulachi precibus munera nacta piis; Morbos ille fugat promptus viresque reponit Aegris, et causas mille salutis habet; Scilicet aequus agit mediis Doulachus in undis, Angelus ut fontem, sic movet ille suum; O fons noster amor! si te negleximus olim, Mox erit ut nomen sit super astra tuum* (D'Alton 1838, 224).

The Latin inscription roughly translates as:

*Another may bring out the bright pools of Solymus, And the healing people shall throw the Hebrew waters, Grateful to the God of the country, Fingalia celebrates the spring of Doulachi, the gifts obtained by the pious; He readily banishes diseases and restores strength to the sick, and has a thousand causes of salvation; Of course, Doulachus acts equally in the mediums of*

*the waves, the Angel as a spring, so he moves his own; O source of our love! if we once neglected you, soon your name will be above the stars (D'Alton 1838, 224).*

An alternative translation reads:

*Bethsaida's sacred pool let others tell, With healing virtues how her waters swell; An equal glory shall Fingalia claim, Nor be less grateful for her blessed stream. Thy prayers Dolachus mounted up to heaven, Thence to the well the mighty power is given, To drive the fiery fever far away, Strength to replace and rescue from decay, In every malady to life a stay, The cherub, wondrous moves his waters there, The saint behold! who stirs the fountain here. Hail lovely fount, if long unsung thy name, It hence shall rise above the starry frame (Joyce 1912, 285).*

In 1690, the paintings in the Baptistry were destroyed by Sir Richard Bulkeley, the second Baronet of Dunlavin, and a party of Williamite troopers, who were returning to Dublin following the Battle of the Boyne (D'Alton 1838, 224; Joyce 1912, 285).

#### 4.3.2 Excavation

In 1989, Leo Swan investigated parts of the Baptistry and the vault associated with St Catherine's Well in advance of the repair and partial reconstruction of the structural features (Appendix 3). Seven test trenches were excavated, which included three cuttings within the courtyard that lies outside the octagonal Baptistry structure, and another to the south that was opened across the line of the steps leading down to the Baptistry. A trench was excavated from the north face of the vault containing St Catherine's Well in a northerly direction, while the two final trenches were opened outside and to the east and west of the of the Baptistry courtyard in St Doulagh's Field (Swan 1989, 2).

The outer east and west cuttings in St Doulagh's Field were excavated to the level of the boulder clay, but uncovered nothing of archaeological significance (Swan 1989, 2). The trench across the stairs leading to the Baptistry to the south uncovered paving at a depth of 0.15m below ground level, which was left *in situ* (*ibid.*). No archaeological remains were noted in two of the trenches in the outer courtyard around the Baptistry. However, the open-air trough/bath was uncovered in the northern trench. The rectangular structure was positioned between the outfall from St Doulagh's Well and the inner face of the northern retaining wall of the courtyard (Swan 1989, 3). It was composed of limestone blocks and slabs and measured 1.8m (N–S) by 0.75m (E–W) and was 0.6m deep. It included a step along its western side and the floor of the structure consisted of a single large slab of limestone (*ibid.*).

The structure was interpreted as a bath or trough that formerly contained water that had overflowed from the natural spring forming St Doulagh's Well in the Baptistry (Swan 1989, 3). In addition, the water in the bath and St Doulagh's Well could be controlled to allow it to flow into the vault associated with St Catherine's Well to the north (*ibid.*). An assemblage of late medieval, post medieval and modern artefacts, shell and animal bone was recovered from the fill of the bath. These included a silver

penny of Henry VIII (c.1509–47) and a Henry VIII posthumous coin issued by the London Mint dating to 1547–51 (*ibid.*).

As part of the works, St Doulagh's Well inside the Baptistry was cleared of loose stone, rubble and debris. A small assemblage of Irish and British coins and tokens were recovered from the debris. These included two Irish tokens dating to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries respectively, an Irish halfpenny of George II (c.1727–1760), two Irish halfpennies of George III (c.1760–1820) and an Irish penny of George IV (c.1820–30) (Swan 1989, 3). The British coinage included a George III halfpenny and an early Victorian halfpenny (*ibid.*). Two large fragments of scallop shells were recovered from the area of the Baptistry, while a worked antler tine and quantities of iron slag were collected from the courtyard area (*ibid.*).

#### 4.4 St Catherine's Well

St Catherine's Well (RMP DU015-009003-; RPS 0459), which joins onto the north wall of St Doulagh's Well, is located c.30m to the north of St Doulagh's Church (RMP DU015-009001-; RPS 0459; NIAH 11350016). The well is located inside a vaulted stone structure that is locally known as the 'Vault'.

St Catherine's Well, which was also used for baptismal rites, is connected to St Doulagh's Well by a subterranean link; a single karst spring supplies both wells. It comprises an underground well enclosed by a rectangular vaulted limestone building. The entrance is in the east through a pointed arched doorway, while the interior is lit by a double-light window in the north (Ó Danachair 1958, 76–77). The roof and gable over the east door are pitched (Anon. 1914, 268), while the internal roof is lime plastered.

Pattern days were celebrated at St Catherine's Well on 15 August and 17 November into the nineteenth-century, until they were suppressed by the church due to rioting (Joyce 1912, 286; Duffy 2019, 27). The well was widely known for the curative effects of its water. The records of the IFC Schools' Collection note that the curative effects of its water were still locally acknowledged into the early twentieth century (Appendix 4). For example, folklore collected from Baldoyle Convent in 1937 noted that: "many a person with sore eyes was cured by the water of the well" (Vol. 0792, 136–37). In Kinsealy, a student related that to obtain the cure for sore eyes from the water: "First you must throw in a pin, rub the water in the eyes and take some away with you. It is not to be used for household purposes" (Vol. 0792, 230–32).

##### 4.4.1 Excavation

As part of Leo Swan's 1989 programme of excavations, a trench was excavated from the north face of the vault containing St Catherine's Well in a northerly direction. The trench, which extended to a depth



of 2m, was 4m in width at the top and narrowed to a width of 2m towards the base (Swan 1989, 2–3). It contained a deep accumulation of fill that when cleared revealed a channel composed of brick and stone. The channel extended north from the sluice-like opening at the base of the north-face of the vault for a distance of 4m before terminating (*ibid.*, 3). Sherds of late medieval and modern ceramics were recovered from the fill, as well as fragments of animal bone and shell. A St Patrick's farthing token, dating to c.1673–74, was also found in the upper levels of the deposit (*ibid.*).

## 4.5 Graveyard

The graveyard (RMP DU015-009006-), which is no longer in active use for burials, comprises a sub-rectangular area that is defined by a curving masonry wall to the east, a concrete wall to the south and to the north by a low earthen bank (FCC 2008, Vol. 2, 180–81). St Doulagh's Church is located in the southeast quadrant of the graveyard. The graveyard occupies raised ground to the north and west, the ground level surrounding the church was truncated down to the level of the building in the nineteenth century. The northern and westernmost sections of the graveyard are heavily overgrown with trees and shrubs, meaning grave markers in these locations are obscured by overgrowth.

The graveyard contains a mixture of eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth-century headstones that include free-standing crosses with individual flat slabs and cast-iron crosses. (FCC 2008, Vol. 2, 181). The earliest headstone that can be deciphered dates to 1706 (McAllister 2008, 30). There is an undecorated pillar stone at the east-end of the church and an uninscribed sandstone headstone to the northeast (FCC 2008, Vol. 2, 181).

To the northwest and west of the church, there are a number of larger plots surrounded by low plinth walls and cast-iron railings. The wall to the south of the church contains late medieval mouldings that have been used as coping stones (SMR DU015-009007-), while there are another two stone mouldings of medieval date at the foot of the stone steps that lead into the southwest of the graveyard.

There are several broken headstones in the graveyard, including an eighteenth-century grave slab that has spilt into two, while inscriptions on several of the flat grave slabs are worn and illegible (FCC 2008, Vol. 2, 182). In addition, the steeply-sloped ground of the graveyard to the west of the church shows evidence of subsidence.

In 1989, Leo Swan investigated a trench in the graveyard/churchyard that extended north from the southern boundary wall as far as the south-facing wall of the church nave (Swan 1989, 4). The trench, which was 1m in width, revealed a stony deposit directly atop the natural boulder clay. Shallow grave cuts were noted in the boulder clay and an assemblage of disarticulated human remains were recovered, which included articulated vertebrae, pelvis fragments and portions of six adult skulls (*ibid.*). The skeletal remains of an extended inhumation were also uncovered adjacent to the nave wall;



however, parts of the remains were disturbed, possibly during the construction of the nave in the nineteenth century (*ibid.*).

## 4.6 Cross

A simple granite stone cross (RMP DU015-009002-) marks the entrance to the church and graveyard (Figure 24). The Latin cross has short arms that are 0.4m in width and a triangular-shaped head that measures 1.6m in height (McAllister 2008, 29). It is set on a double-stepped limestone pedestal immediately next to the Malahide Road.

When Austin Cooper visited the site in the late eighteenth century the cross was located in the graveyard (Price 1942, 70). In the early nineteenth century, D'Alton noted that stone base and socket of the cross, which once marked the lands of the cross "ex parte Fingal", was located at the head of the approach to the church (1838, 222).

## 5 Understanding the Place

### 5.1 Location Topography and Landscape Setting

St Doulagh's is situated atop a low hill c.115m OD, in gently undulating pasture with views in all cardinal directions (Figure 7). The site, which is in the townland of Saintdoolaghs, lies c.900m to the southwest of Kinsaley village and c.606m to the northwest of Balgriffin. Saintdoolaghs is in the civil parish of Balgriffin and barony of Coolock (Table 1 and Figure 6).

The local topography is low-lying with a high level of fertile cultivation. The Cuckoo Stream, a tributary of the Mayne River, lies c.330m to the south of the site. The study area includes deep well-drained mineral soils, which consist of a fine loamy drift with limestones. The underlying geology comprises till of Irish Sea origin overlying Waulsortian mudbank, pale-grey massive limestone and Tournaisian limestone. There is a karst spring in St Doulagh's Field that feeds St Catherine's Well and St Doulagh's Well (Karst Feature ID\_GSI\_Karst\_40K\_339).<sup>99</sup>

The Landscape Character Assessment of the *Fingal Development Plan 2023–2029* classes the townland of Saintdoolaghs as 'Low Lying Character Type' (FCC 2023, 358). This comprises an open character landscape combined with large field patterns, few tree belts and low roadside hedges. The study area is also located within the 'Kinsealy Area of Sensitivity' landscape.

### 5.2 St Doulagh

St Doulagh, who is commemorated on November 17 as *Dúilech Cain Clochair*, was an anchorite that possibly lived in the early seventh century (Ronan 1941a, 20–21). Entries on the mothers of saints in Book of Lecan and Book of Ballymote assigns to Sin daughter of Niall of the Corca Bhaiscinn, a group settled around Loop Head in Clare, four sons by Sinell of the Connmaicne of Connacht, of whom one, Malach (alias Amhalghaidh), was Dúileach's father (Ó Riain 2011, 276; Reeves 1857–61, 141). Despite a western parental background, Dúileach became a patron of a Leinster church, where his patronage extended to Grangegorman (formally Kildulyc) within the borough of Dublin, which was the first grange of Christchurch Cathedral (Ó Riain 2011, 276).

The earliest reference to St Doulagh is found in the ninth century *Martyrology of Oengus*, where at his festival on 17 November he is introduced in the verse as *la Duilech cain Clochar* (Stokes 1905, 235), which translates as "with Duilech the beautiful of Clochar" (Reeves 1857–61, 142). The verse continues, *o clochar Duilig fria Faeldruim andess, I, itaeb Suird Coluim Cille*, i.e., "of Clochar Duiligh, by

---

<sup>99</sup> Available at:

<https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0ab2fbde2aaac3c228>  
[Accessed: 05.11.24].

Faeltrum [Feltrim] on the south, beside Sord [Swords] of Columcille" (*ibid.*, 143). This indicates the early name of his ecclesiastical foundation was Clochar.

However, it has also been argued that the name St Doulagh is etymologically derived from Olaf/Olave, the patron saint of Norway (Duffy 2019, 26; Ledwich 1804, 146; Bradley 1988, 53). Duffy has suggested that St Doulagh's Church was in fact dedicated to St Olave, whose cult was active in Dublin in the mid-eleventh century, as there is no secure reference to the church of St Doulagh in Fingal until 1406 (Duffy 2019, 28). Moreover, a 1747 survey of the city and diocese notes:

*In Bove-street, now called Fishamble-street, stood formerly a chapel of ease to St John's Church, dedicated to St Doulach, an anchorite, whose feast is celebrated on the 1st of August; on which day, and during its octave, is visited a famous well in Fingal, between Balgriffin and Kinsaley, about five miles from Dublin, contiguous to a church sacred to the memory of this venerable solitary, whose life was formerly preserved in Malahide, but now not to be met with (Ledwich 1804, 146).*

The feast day of St Olave is 1 August (Duffy 2019, 28), while St Dúilech's feast-day is noted in the *Martyrology of Oengus* as 17 November (Stokes 1905, 235). Thus, Duffy suggests that there is good evidence, in conjunction with the local association with Doulagh/Doolagh, that there was at some point a church dedicated to St Olave at this location (2019, 28–29).

## 5.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

### 5.3.1 Prehistoric Period (8000 BC–AD 400)<sup>100</sup>

#### 5.3.1.1 Mesolithic Period (8000–4000 BC)

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 both Early and Late Mesolithic activity has been uncovered from midden deposits along the north Dublin coastline. For example, a possible microlith of Early Mesolithic date was uncovered

---

<sup>100</sup> The chronological schema for the various archaeological and historical periods is informed by the *Project Radiocarbon* research project (Hannah et al. 2022).

from midden material (RMP DU008-013003-), that was sealed by a later passage tomb (Flanagan 1984, 15). The site was located on a small headland to the south of Loughshinny in Rush, c.14.3km to the north-northeast of the study area. Another midden in the townland of Burrow, Sutton (RMP DU015-024----), c.5.8km to the southeast, produced an assemblage of Late Mesolithic butt-trimmed flakes of flint and chert, as well as Neolithic stone tools and faunal remains (Mitchell 1956 & 1972).

In an all-island context, key evidence for Late Mesolithic activity was recorded from Ferriter's Cove, County Kerry. The site, which was located on the Dingle Peninsula, produced evidence for small middens that were seasonally visited over a thousand years, with the main period of activity dating to 4500 cal. BC (Woodman *et al.* 1999, 114). Possible roasting pits were uncovered, as well as burnt stone platforms and assemblages of faunal remains and typologically diagnostic butt-trimmed flakes and stone axes (*ibid.*). While Ferriter's Cove contained no formal burials, several pieces of disarticulated human bone and teeth were found, one dating to 4225–3950 cal. BC, and the other to 4250–3980 cal. BC (Schulting 1999). Some of the earliest domesticated cattle bone from Ireland was also recovered from the midden deposits, which was dated to approximately 4300 cal. BC (*ibid.*), and suggests Ferriter's Cove may represent a key site for our understanding of the Neolithic transition in an Irish context.

#### **5.3.1.2 Neolithic Period (4000–2500 BC)**

The Neolithic period (4000–2500 BC) 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 3600 BC saw a period of rapid expansion across the country, which included the construction of timber-built rectangular houses, elaborate 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 in the study area. However, there is an Early Neolithic portal tomb c.7.35km to the southeast in Howth Demesne (RMP DU015-032----), a Middle Neolithic passage tomb in Rush (RMP DU008-013001-), c.14.3km to the north-northeast, as well as a passage tomb complex located c.24.2km to the north-northeast in Bremore (RMP DU002-001001- to DU002-001005-).

A Neolithic stone axe factory was excavated at the Eagle's Nest quarry site on Lambay Island (RMP DU009-001016), c.13.7km to the northeast of the study area. All stages of axe production were represented at the quarry, including large cobbles of conglomerate and granite that were used to break porphyry off the outcrop and hammerstones used in roughing out of axes (Cooney 2009).

In 1947, a substantial assemblage of Neolithic artefacts was recovered during an excavation in advance of quarrying at Feltrim Hill; objects were also collected from tip-heaps containing the quarried debris. Feltrim Hill lies c.2.2km to the north-northwest of the study area. The typologically diagnostic Neolithic artefacts recovered from the site included Early Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowheads and carinated bowl sherds, Middle Neolithic hollow scrapers, in addition to Neolithic hammer stones and polished stone axes of andesite and porcellanite, and retouched flakes of flint, chert and quartz crystal (Hartnett & Eogan 1964, 3–4).

### **5.3.1.3 The Bronze Age (2500–800 BC)**

The Bronze Age (2500–800 BC) 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 and ritual objects. The technological innovations of the period went hand-in-hand with an intensification of agriculture that was largely facilitated by the availability of more efficient tools. A copper mine at Ross Island, County Kerry, is thought to have been the source of most of the copper used in Ireland between 2400 and 2000 BC. Excavations at the site uncovered smelting operations and a smelting camp where copper ore was processed (O’Brien 2004).

The closest evidence for Bronze Age settlement activity in proximity to the study area is at Portraine Demesne, c.8.7km to the northeast, where structural remains were uncovered. The circular structure (SMR DU012-095002-), which was excavated in advance of a Wastewater Treatment Scheme, consisted of a curvilinear slot trench and external postholes that occurred in association with a series of pits that contained flint debitage (McQuade 2011, 36–37).

*Fulachtaí fia* (burnt mounds) are amongst the most common Bronze Age site types in Ireland (e.g. Hawkes 2015). The sites are characterised by a low horseshoe- or kidney-shaped mound of heat-shattered stone discarded from the process of heating water in a subsoil-cut trough. Generally found in low-lying ground where the water table is close to the surface, the often wood-lined troughs filled naturally with water. The functions of *fulachtaí fia* were many and varied, from cooking to bathing places to brewing sites and sweat houses.

An Early Bronze Age burnt mound was excavated in Maynetown, Portmarnock in 2018 (SMR DU015-157---), c.2.2km to the east-northeast of the study area. The remains consisted of an isolated oval pit filled with burnt stone and charcoal, which was interpreted as a trough. A charcoal sample from the pit returned a radiocarbon date of 2135–1920 cal. BC (McLoughlin 2020).

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. There are two ring ditches in the study area (Table 4), that are located in the townlands of Saintdoolaghs (SMR DU015-011----) and Springhill (SMR DU015-144----) (Figure 8). The ring ditch in Springhill is circular in plan with a diameter of c.12.3m. The feature, which is defined by a ditch and lies 185m to the northwest of St Doulagh's, occurs in association with another three ring ditches to the west (SMR DU015-140----, SMR DU015-142---- and SMR DU015-143----). The ring ditch in the townland of Saintdoolaghs lies c.360m to the east-southeast of St Doulagh's. The monument is circular in plan and has an external diameter of c.20m.

#### **5.3.1.4 The Iron Age (800 BC–AD 400)**

The Iron Age (c.800 BC–AD 400) is marked by the use of iron for weapons, tools and jewellery and other accompanying changes in surviving material culture. The period contrasts with the rich remains of the previous Bronze Age and the later early medieval period due to the paucity of material remains. However, it is possible that some of the ring ditches within or in proximity to the study area (e.g. SMR DU015-011---- and DU015-144----) date to this period.

There are a number of Iron Age coastal promontory forts in Fingal. These include examples on Howth Head (RMP DU016-003001-) and Ireland's Eye (SMR DU015-133----), which are located c.9.73km to the southeast and c.7.24km to the east-southeast of the study area respectively. In addition, Fingal was one of the key locations for contact between the Roman world and Ireland (Waddell 2000). Lambay (*Limnos*) and Howth are mentioned in Ptolemy's Geography, compiled in Alexandria, which is the earliest known documentary account of Ireland (Bolton 2008, 10).

Evidence for contact and trade with the Roman world has been revealed through Fingal County Council's *Digging Drumanagh* project.<sup>101</sup> The community excavation is investigating a coastal promontory fort (RMP DU008-006001-), which is located c.15.3km to the northeast of the study area. Romano-British objects recovered during the excavation include two decorated antler combs, a striped blue melon bead (AD c.100–200) and two fragments of Dressel 20 pottery (AD c.100–300), which were amphorae used for the transportation of olive oil from Spain (Baker 2019b, 29).

#### **5.3.2 Early Medieval Period (AD 400–1100)**

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. The

---

<sup>101</sup> For more information see: <https://www.fingal.ie/digging-drumanagh> [Accessed: 05.11.24].

period, which spanned 700 years, was also a time of economic and environmental change. Surviving law tracts provide valuable insights into the nature of Irish society at the time, which suggest Ireland was roughly divided into overkingdoms, regional kingdoms and local 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 southern Uí Neill Kingdom of Brega, which may have been occupied by the Gailenga and the Saitne tribes during the early medieval period (Stout & Stout 1992, 20; Byrne 1987). Brega comprised five Gaelic *triocha-cheds* (equivalent to cantreds, or the later baronies), and was ruled by the King of Tara (Bhreathnach 2004; O'Donovan 1856).

The results from the geophysical survey suggest that inner and outer ditched enclosures defined the Early Christian ecclesiastical foundation of *Clochar Duiligh* (Nicholls 2010; Stokes 1905, 235). A radiocarbon date obtained from a basal ditch fill in the outer enclosure indicate there was settlement onsite from the ninth century AD (Duffy 2015). It is probable that the settlement locus, which possibly included a simple wooden or stone church, was located on top of the low hill and slightly to the west of the present location of the church and graveyard (Figure 12). The field system DU015-009008-, which lies to the south of the present church, indicates that livestock were tended and crops were grown, while slag fragments recovered during excavations (e.g. Swan 1989; Duffy 2015), suggest that industrial activity such as metal working was taking place onsite.

Evidence for early medieval settlement in the wider study area includes a possible ploughed-out ringfort with a diameter of c.40m in Kinsaley, which is located c.290m to the northeast of St Doulagh's. Ringforts/raths and related monuments, such as cashels and raised/platform raths, all comprise forms of early medieval enclosed settlement (e.g. Stout 1997). Excavation and topographical studies have demonstrated that a wide variety of morphologies and dates occur within the ringfort classification (O'Sullivan *et al.* 2013, 51–72). They can be univallate, bivallate, or trivallate, can vary greatly in size, can occur singly or in dense concentrations and may or may not contain settlement evidence. Stout (2015, 73) suggested that of the approximately 60,000 recorded Irish ringforts, most were occupied between the early seventh and ninth centuries AD.

### **5.3.2.1 Hiberno-Norse Fingal**

The first phase of Scandinavian settlement in Dublin 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 re-founded 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. For example, in the eleventh century, Kinsaley, which was an important port at the head of an estuary, was under the jurisdiction of Hamund Fitz-Torkaill, a Dane (Ronan 1941a, 17; Bowen 1963, 70).

Viking settlement continued to spread outwards from the Liffey Basin during the eleventh and into the twelfth century. However, there is no indication that the native Irish were displaced by the Vikings in the Fine Gall region (e.g. Simms & Fagan 1992, 89). It appears St Doulagh's had come under the ownership of the Vikings by the eleventh century, as in c.1038 the Hiberno-Norse king of Dublin, Sigtrygg Silkbeard, gave lands at Celldulig (St Doulagh's), Portrane and Reachrain (Lambay Island) to Holy Trinity (Christchurch) for the maintenance of the newly founded- cathedral (Hudson 2005, 115–16; Ronan 1941a, 21).

### **5.3.3 The Late Medieval Period (AD 1100–1600)**

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 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.

The Anglo-Normans established fiefs, towns, a monetary system, a new political system and introduced new Continental religious orders (Bolton 2008, 12). The extensive properties and holdings wealthy ecclesiastical institutions were ratified under the new Anglo-Norman regime, while the Synods of Rathbreasil (1111), Inis Pádraig (1148) and Kells (1152), reformed the Irish church and established the parochial and diocesan system (Holland 2004).

In 1161, Laurence O'Toole who was consecrated as archbishop of Dublin in 1162, introduced the regular canons of St Augustine to Holy Trinity (Ronan 1941a, 21). In 1178, St Lorcan Ua Tuathail confirmed *Celldulig* to Holy Trinity, while in 1179, Pope Alexander III confirmed the churches and villas of the see of Dublin to Laurence O'Toole (Ronan 1930, 71). These included the *tertia pars de Clochair*



(third part of Clochair; i.e. St Doulagh's), the other parts of Clochair remained in the ownership of the anchorites (Ronan 1941a, 21). In the confirmation of the possessions of Christ Church by Pope Urban III in 1186, the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, St Doulagh's is named *Trianchochair* (Reeves 1857–61, 143).

A record in the *Crede Mihi* notes that by c.1275, Clochar was absorbed by the parish of Balgriffin (Reeves 1857–61, 143; Walsh 1888, 196). A Welsh settler named Griffin had founded the church of Griffinstown (RMP DU015-012001-); the twelfth century church was located c.850m to the southeast of 'St Duilech's'. The church was under the patronage of Sampson, a Welsh saint, and was located close to Griffin's manorial castle (RMP DU015-062003-) (Ronan 1941a, 21; Walsh 1888, 34).

In c.1400, the manor of Balgriffin and Church of St Sampson were seized from Thomas Comyn and assigned to the prior and convent of the Holy Trinity (Reeves 1857–61, 144). No mention of Clochar is made in the Papal taxations of the early fourteenth century (Moss 2003, 123). However, in May 1406, an indulgence was granted by the Archbishop of Armagh, Nicholas Fleming, to all those who would:

*visit the chapel of the Blessed Virgin and the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul in Boghomyr (?Clochair), Seynt Dulagh vulgarly called, in the diocese of Dublin," confess their sins to the chaplain, Eustace Roch,<sup>102</sup> anchorite, enclosed in the chapel, do penance and give alms for "his support and the repair and ornamentation of the said church which is without means to do so* (Reeves 1859, 145–46; Moss 2003, 124).

The letter also confirmed that forty days of indulgence would be conceded to those who contributed to the maintenance of the church, while the archbishop also permitted his own *parochiani* to receive penance from the anchorite (Lawlor 1912/13, 102). Thus, it is evident that the chapel was undergoing alterations at this time, which possibly included a refectory and reading room (Ronan 1941a, 21).

At the end of the fifteenth century Walter Fitzsimon, archbishop of Dublin, confirmed the church of Balgriffin with its glebe and the 'Chapel of St Dolachy' to the cathedral of the Holy Trinity (Reeves 1857–61, 144). In 1506, a grant of lands in Bothem, Ballinacarrick and Nettlebed was made by John Burnell of Balgriffin to John Young (a chaplain), for establishing a chantry in the chapel of St Dulach's (D'Alton 1838, 225). This endowment would have funded daily masses for the patron and afforded him a prime burial place in the church (Moss 2003, 124). The Christ Church Deeds note that in 1543, Archbishop Browne confirmed to the vicar of St Duilech's the chapel of Balgryffyne united to the vicarage (Ronan 1941a, 21).

In 1560, the Irish Parliament passed both the Act of Supremacy and the Act of Uniformity, the former prescribing to all officers the Oath of Supremacy, the latter prohibiting the Mass and commanding the

---

<sup>102</sup> In 1207, Eustachius de Rupe (Roch) was constable of Dublin and held 300 acres in Lusk (Ronan 1941a, 21).

public use of the Book of Common Prayer (Jefferies 1988, 133). Whoever refused to attend the Protestant service was fined for each offence, while a subsequent viceregal proclamation ordered all priests to leave Dublin and prohibited the use of images, candles, and beads (*ibid.*, 130). Thus, the 'Recusancy Acts',<sup>103</sup> which began during the reign of Elizabeth I, imposed a number of punishments on those who did not participate in Anglican religious activity, including fines, property confiscation, and imprisonment. Many of Fingal's Catholic churches were abandoned in the decades following the Reformation and the introduction of the established church (Otway-Ruthven 1961), while others, such as St Doulagh's, fell into a gradual state of disrepair.

### 5.3.4 Post-Medieval Period (AD 1600–1750)

In 1615, a Visitation was held to investigate the state of the dioceses of the established church in the provinces of Leinster, Connacht and Munster (Phair 1978, 81). The archbishops and bishops of each diocese were directed to provide information on the value of church lands, the state of repair of church buildings, including glebes, and to list allowances given to vicars and curates (*ibid.*, 81–82). The returns for the Visitation for deanery of Swords in the diocese of Dublin records that Patricius Beghan (Patrick Begahan) was the curate and minister of 'St Dowlocke' (Ronan 1941a, 20). The Regal Visitation thus represents St Dowlocke's as the parish church, while Balgriffin is noted as a ruined chapel pertaining to St Dowlocke's (Reeves 1857–61, 144; Walsh 1888, 208).

The records for Archbishop Bulkeley's Visitation of the diocese of Dublin in 1630, suggest the church was in a state of disrepair and had fallen into ruin. In relation to the united churches of Balgriffin and 'St Dowlocks' Archbishop Bulkeley noted:

*The churches and chauncells are ruinous and wants all ornaments. The tythes are impropriet, held by Mr. Fagan,<sup>104</sup> of Feltrim, and Mr. Usher, of Cromlyn. The value of the tythes is unknown to the incumbent. Richard Kelly, aforesaid, dischargeth the cure, and hath noe certein allowance, onely for theis fower years past, the Right Hoble, the Lord Chancellor allowed hum xxv libri, part of which he is paid, the rest promised; but for the time to come he knoweth not what to have. All the parishioners are recusants, and resort to Fitzsimons Grainge and Plunketts Grainge, and some to Howth (Ronan 1941b, 67).*

Following the defeat of the Battle of Kinsale the resentment of the vanquished native Irish boiled over when they supported the Roman Catholic Old English in the 1641 Rebellion (Foster 1988, 87). The 1641 depositions for Dublin suggest that Fingal was the scene of violent episodes throughout the 1640s. For example, in 1642 Reverend Randolph Dymocke, the vicar of St Doulagh's, fled from rebels

---

<sup>103</sup> Recusancy was the state of those who remained loyal to the Catholic Church and refused to attend services of the State-established Anglican Church of Ireland after the Reformation.

<sup>104</sup> Mr Fagan of Feltrim, farmer of the tithes, decorated the interior of the Baptistry with frescoes in 1609 (Ronan 1941b, 67).

in fear of his life to the safety of the city of Dublin (Ní Mhurchadha, 2005, 185; McAllister 2008, 18). Robbery and the destruction of property were commonplace and were a manifestation of the deep-seated religious and socio-economic grievances that divided settlers and natives in the Fingal region (Ní Mhurchadha, 2005).

The damage to the physical fabric of churches and settlements as a result of the Confederate Wars of 1641–53 is also illustrated in the records of the Civil Survey (Simington 1945). The survey of 1654–56 was ordered by the Civil Authority following the Cromwellian conquest to determine the extent and value of Irish land prior to confiscation. The survey divided landowners along ethnic and religious lines into 'Irish Papists' and 'English Protestants'.

St Dowlagh's, Rohomore and Ballmacrtell, which were valued at £22 in the Civil Survey, formed part of church lands in the Parish of Ballgriffin (Simington 1945, 189). The holdings included five acres of meadow, 70 acres of arable lands and twelve acres of pasture (*ibid.*). Christopher Fagan of Feltrim, an Irish Papist, leased the lands of St Dowlagh's from the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral at the yearly rent of £1:6:0; the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church retained the tithes (*ibid.*, xix). The buildings onsite included the walls of a decayed chapel and three small thatch cottages, in addition to an orchard and garden (*ibid.*, 189).

'Petty's Census', was undertaken between December 1654 and 1659 by Sir William Petty, as part of the preparatory work for the confiscations that took place under the Cromwellian Commonwealth (Pender 1939, i–ii). Two classes of people are recorded; 'tituladoes' claimed title to the land they occupied, while the inhabitants were classed as either Irish, English or Scotch (*ibid.*, v). The 'census' records eight people, all Irish, as living in 'St Dowlaght', while the tituladoe was Mitchell Jones Esq. (*ibid.*, 389).

### 5.3.5 Modern Era (AD 1750–2000)

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, influential land-owners built and consolidated substantial estates, such as Saint Doolagh's Park (RPS 461; NIAH 11350019), Lime Hill House (NIAH 11350015) and Bohomer (RPS 790; NIAH 11350011), which was formerly named Saint Doulagh's (Appendix 2).

In 1775, a small church was constructed to the north of the medieval church buildings to serve the growing population of St Doulagh's (Walsh 1888, 232). The economic and social resources of the parish further improved in 1786, when St Doulagh's was declared a perpetual curacy (Leslie 1940; McAllister 2008, 21). Perpetual curacies were supported by a cash stipend, usually maintained by an endowment fund, which would have guaranteed an income for the church. In 1785, the vicar of St Doulagh's, James Saurin was granted a curate to assist him (*ibid.*, 21–22).

In the early nineteenth century, an agricultural survey of Dublin by the Dublin Society recorded that 'St Doulogh's Church' was 'in order' and that the clergy was James Saurin (Archer 1801, 227). At the time 'St Doulogh's' continued to form part of the union with Balgriffin (Lewis 1837, Vol I, 201). In 1814, the Board of First Fruits provided a gift of £400 and a loan of £300 for the construction a glebe house' (Board of the First Fruits 1815, 2–3). However, there is no evidence that the glebe house was ever constructed, as in 1838, D'Alton noted that the rectory of St Doulagh's was a curacy without a glebe or glebe house (1838, 225).

In August 1859, a meeting of the Preservation Committee of St Doulagh's was convened. The attendees included John Sloan, an architectural consultant who noted the following in relation to the church:

*This building, in danger of being lost to the world, is unique, and as an architectural enigma, unmatched in Europe...The simple task which the committee proposes is to preserve and hand down for future study this architectural enigma (Sloan 1859).*

From 1861–62, the medieval parts of the church were repaired and restored as part of the Sloan Conservation Plan (McAllister 2020, 10). The eighteenth-century Georgian aisle was demolished in 1861, and was replaced in 1864 with a simple nave designed by William Henry Lynn (D'Alton 1938, 222). The new nave was consecrated by Archbishop Trench on 25 January 1865 (Walsh 1887, 232). In 1900, the Parish of St Doulagh's was united with the parishes of Malahide and Portmarnock (McAllister 2008, 37).

## 5.4 Cartographical Analysis

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

John Speed's map of 'The Countie of Leinster...',<sup>105</sup> published in 1610, is one of five known sets of proof maps prepared as part of 'The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine' which was published in 1611–1612 (Figure 26). 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.

### 5.4.2 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 Coolock in the County of Dublin',<sup>106</sup> which was drafted by William Wright in 1655, includes 'Fagans

---

<sup>105</sup> Available at: <https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/PR-ATLAS-00002-00061-00001/38> [Accessed: 16.07.24].

<sup>106</sup> Available at: <https://downsurvey.tchpc.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php#bm=Coolock&c=Dublin> [Accessed: 05.11.24].

Part of Kinsally', 'Gouldings Part of Kinsally' and 'Ballinacartle' in Swords Parish (Figure 27). St Doulagh's is not shown or named.

However, the accompanying parish map for 'The Parishes of Finglas, Coolock, Ratheny, Cloghran, Swords and Mallahide in the Barony of Coolock and County of Dublin',<sup>107</sup> also drawn by Wright in 1655, indicates and names St Doulagh's in association with the lands of Ballymacartle (Figure 28). The accompanying terrier entry for Ballymacartle noted that Christopher Fagan of Feltrim leased the lands, which included 'St Doolaghs'. The lands consisted of 120.3 plantation acres of profitable Glebe lands, all of which were forfeited.

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

John Roque's survey of County Dublin from 1760<sup>108</sup> indicates 'St Dooghlas Well' to the north of 'Church', which is located within a square graveyard (Figure 29). A series of dwellings are shown to the east and southeast of the church fronting onto the Malahide Road, while 'St Dooghlas Hills' are depicted to the west of the church. A 'Church in Ruins' is indicated to the northeast in 'Kinsale' and a substantial house named 'Prospects' that is approached by a formal tree-lined avenue is shown to the north of St Doulagh's Field.

The local hinterland comprises a network of fields enclosed by hedgerows, which are under pasture and tillage. The Cuckoo Stream is illustrated to the south of St Doulagh's, with the Mayne River further to the south in Balgriffin. Due east of St Doulagh's, a substantial house named 'New Park' is shown within a formal planted garden that is approached by a tree-lined avenue.

#### ***5.4.4 Ordnance Survey First-Edition Six-Inch Map (1843)***

The first-edition OS six-inch map, which was surveyed in 1836 and published in 1843, shows the medieval church buildings with the eighteenth-century church to the northwest; the structures are enclosed within a sub-square graveyard (Figure 30). St Catherine's Well and St Doolagh's Well are named and depicted to the northwest of the church and graveyard. A U-shaped complex of three buildings is shown to the east of the church in St Doulagh's Field. The structures are not named and may represent a complex of farm buildings.

The stone cross is named and shown on the Malahide Road and to the east-southeast of the church. A long linear building is depicted to south-southwest of the cross that also fronts onto the Malahide

---

<sup>107</sup> Available at: <https://downsurvey.tchpc.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php#bm=Coolock&c=Dublin&p=Cloghran+Swords+Mallahide+Coolock+and+Finglas> [Accessed: 05.11.24].

<sup>108</sup> Available at: <https://digitalcollections.tcd.ie/concern/works/mg74qp03f?locale=en> [Accessed: 05.11.24].

Road. There is a national school to the south of the graveyard wall, with Lime Hill House (NIAH 11350015) shown further west.

St Doolagh's, which is now Bohomer (RPS 790; NIAH 11350011), lies to the north of St Doulagh's Field. The house is depicted as occurring within a formal designed landscape with an associated gatehouse located along the Malahide Road (NIAH 11350012). St Doolagh's Lodge, now Wellfield House (RPS 668; NIAH 11350021), is shown to the east of the Malahide Road and southeast of St Doulagh's Church.

The local early eighteenth-century landscape is composed of large formal fields under pasture with areas of tillage; a large part of the local area is composed of historic demesnes and gardens associated with formal buildings. A number of quarries are shown in areas of elevated ground and a weir and 'St Doolagh's Bridge' are shown along the Cuckoo Stream to the south of the church.

#### **5.4.5 *Ordnance Survey First-Edition 25-Inch Map (1909)***

The first-edition OS 25-inch map, which was surveyed in 1906 and published in 1909, shows the 1862 nave and chancel located to the northwest of the medieval buildings (Figure 31). The walls enclosing the graveyard have been formalised since the survey of the six-inch map in 1836 and are now straighter to the south and west. A formal avenue leads from the Malahide Road towards the church, while a path is shown extending along the south of the church to access the nineteenth-century nave. The simple Latin stone cross is indicated along the avenue to the church.

The Baptistry and the outer octagonal structure are illustrated in St Doulagh's Field, with St Catherine's Well to the north-northeast. The lime treelined avenue delimits the northern part of St Doulagh's Field, which otherwise is seemingly devoid of tree cover. The buildings shown in St Doulagh's Field and the field to the south on the six-inch map are no longer extant, the national school to the south of the graveyard is also gone.

To the east of the Malahide Road, St. Doolagh's Park (RPS 461; NIAH 11350019), includes outbuildings and areas of parkland enclosed by broadleaved trees, with a gate lodge to the west-northwest (RPS 061; NIAH 11350018). The gate lodge for Lime Hill House (NIAH 11350027), is shown beside the Malahide Road to the south-southeast of St Doulagh's Church. A milestone (RPS 462; NIAH 11350029), is indicated beside the gate lodge.

### **5.5 Natural Heritage of the Place**

The natural heritage of St Doulagh's includes a range of flora and fauna species. The site demonstrates a high level of biodiversity, with well-managed grasslands, woodlands, and historic structures that support various species, including bats and birds like the long-eared owl. Our understanding of the

natural heritage of the place is informed by the *Ecology Survey and Biodiversity Plan* (Douglas 2024) and the *Arboricultural Report* (Goodwin 2024). These reports are included as annexes with the CMP.

### 5.5.1 Flora

#### 5.5.1.1 Trees

The north, south, and west of the site are wrapped in a thick band of trees composed mainly of common beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). Hazel trees (*Ulmus spp*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) also occur in lesser quantities, while dog rose (*Rosa canina*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus agg*) are abundant along the woodland boundary (Douglas 2024, 4).

Arboriculturally, the most notable trees in the churchyard are several yews (*Taxus baccata*) – particularly tree number 9814. The largest trees are sycamores, numbers 9818 and 9827 (Goodwin 2024, Appendix 1). West and north of the church and graveyard is an area of young woodland. Likely self-seeded, this is predominantly composed of slender semi-mature ash and grey alder (*Alnus incana*). Several trees are dead or dying from infection; in particular, the ash from *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (ash dieback disease) (*ibid.*, 5).

The northern graveyard lawn is edged with several dying ash trees and with three small mature shrubs growing on top of graves. Tree lines run along the eastern boundary with the Malahide Road and adjacent (agricultural) fields to the west. The treeline along the Malahide Road includes several ash trees that are dead or dying from ash dieback disease (Goodwin 2024, 7).

At the Baptistry, the one notable old tree is a small hawthorn (tree number 9830), which is rooted in the northern retaining wall of the sunken enclosure around St Doulagh's Well. Just north and below it is the sunken chamber enclosing St Catherine's Well. To the west of the Baptistry well are a multi-stemmed birch (*Betula pendula*) and an alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), tree numbers 9831 and 9832, while further west beside these are a small group of maples (Goodwin 2024, 9).

The oldest trees on site are yew trees numbers 9814 and 9829 in the churchyard, hawthorn number 9830 in the Baptistry, and the treeline that delineates the northern part of St Doulagh's Field. The lime avenue of 'Bohomer' to the north of St Doulagh's Field is clearly shown on the nineteenth-century OS maps (Goodwin 2024, 10–11). Yew 9814 is also likely to have been present at that time, although as an individual lone tree it is not clearly marked on the historic maps. This yew has a circumference of c.3.39m, which suggests an age of c.300 years for the tree (*ibid.*, 12).



#### 5.5.1.2 Grassland Meadow

St Doulagh's Field includes a managed grassland meadow to the north of the church that covers an area of 0.6ha. The grassland is generally diverse and supports a variety of flowering plants and grasses, including annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*), sweet vernal grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*). Herbs include tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), docks (*Rumex spp.*) and ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus*), red clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*). Prominent clusters of selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*) are also present throughout the grassland (Douglas 2024, 5).

Lesser habitat areas on the site include a range of stone walls and stone work supporting an array of small plants, lichens, and mosses and an area of grassland kept closely mown for amenity uses (Douglas 2024, 5).

#### 5.5.2 Fauna

The Glebe Warden, Rector and several parishioners have noted that bats roost in the church during the summer months. This indicates that unknown parts of the stone structure are a maternity roost for bats (Douglas 2024, 6). In addition, three sightings of common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) were noted in St Doulagh's Field during the nighttime Bat Survey on 19 September 2024 (*ibid.*). There is also evidence that mammals are extant in St Doulagh's Field and the graveyard, as there are abundant tracks and trails throughout the woodland that suggest that red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and badgers (*Meles meles*) are using the site (*ibid.*, 6).

The wide variety of tree species at St Doulagh's provides excellent nesting habitat for several bird species. Species noted during the Ecology Survey included woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*), pied wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarrellii*), robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) and wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*). One of the key outcomes of the Ecology Survey was the sighting of a long-eared owl (*Asio otus*) that was observed hunting over the grassland meadow in St Doulagh's Field and perching in the adjacent lime trees (Douglas 2024, 7).

### 5.6 Intangible Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage includes archaeology, architectural heritage, folklore and history.<sup>109</sup> Archaeology and architectural heritage together comprise 'tangible heritage', while folklore and history as well as mythology, placenames, language, literature, poetry, musical traditions, traditional crafts and skills are considered 'intangible heritage'. These forms of cultural heritage can be broadly characterised as "non-

---

<sup>109</sup> Under Annex IV(4) of amended EIA Directive 2014/52/EU, as interpreted in EPA 2022 (Section 3, 32).



moveable, non-material and largely non-environmental although by their associations with certain sites and places, add to the character of an area” (EPA 2015).

The *Fingal Heritage Plan 2024–2030* highlights the coastline landscape, biodiversity, archaeological sites, historic houses and demesnes, agricultural, industrial and marine traditions, in addition to traditional skills, language, folklore and music as key aspects of the cultural heritage of the county (FCC 2024, 4). The NIICH lists the long and continuous tradition of the ‘Mummers of Fingal’ as part of the oral heritage traditions, rituals, festive events and expressions of Fingal. Fingal Mumming differs from Mumming elsewhere in Ireland in that it mixes representative dressing with masking and straw costumes.<sup>110</sup>

In the context of St Doulagh’s, the traditions associated with historic pilgrims to the holy wells and the church represent key expressions of the intangible cultural heritage of the site. For example, the *Annual Letters (Litterae Annuae)* of the Jesuits contain descriptions of popular pilgrim sites from the Irish mission before the suppression of the order in 1773, including traditions associated with the sites (Orschel 2014/15, 402). The *Annals* of 1641–50 mention the ‘Church of St Dúileach’ and note that the holy well here was much frequented by the people (*ibid.*, 410).

Artefacts recovered from St Doulagh’s Well during the 1989 included late medieval and post-medieval coins and tokens, as well as scallop shells, which are all indicative of offerings by pilgrims to the site (e.g. Nugent 2020). In particular, the shells of king scallop or great scallop shells, which are also known as the pilgrim scallop due to their religious significance. The shell has for many centuries been the badge worn by pilgrims to the shrine of St James at Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain.

The water from St Catherine’s Well and St Doulagh’s Well was used to treat sore eyes. Folklore collected in the Schools’ Collection from Baldoyle Convent in 1937 recorded that many people cured their sore eyes with water from St Doulagh’s Well (Vol. 0792, 136–37). Folklore collected from Kinsealy School related how at the time of the Penal Laws priests would say mass from the courtyard to the south of the Baptistry (Vol. 0792, 206). Another informant details that to avail of the cure from St Catherine’s Well one must “...throw in a pin, rub the water in the eyes and take some away with you. It is not used for household purposes” (Vol. 0792, 230–32). The Schools’ Collection also includes an entry that relates how the cross had been removed from the entrance to the site on several occasions, but was always mysteriously replaced. In one instance, a man named Noble became a hunchback after removing the cross (Vol. 0792, 239–41).

---

<sup>110</sup> Available at: <https://nationalinventoryich.tcagsm.gov.ie/mummers-of-fingal/> [Accessed: 04.11.24].

The site was also visited by pregnant women and women in labour, who venerated St Doulagh and celebrated his feast on 1 August (Orschel 2014/15, 410; Ó Riain 2011, 276). Pregnant women would lie in the saint's 'bed', which is located on the second floor of the tower in a small recess, and turn three times to prevent death during childbirth (Ledwich 1804, 146; Joyce 1921, 284).

## 6 Assessment of Significance

### 6.1 Basis of Assessment

A central component of a CMP is an Assessment of Significance. This assessment examines the importance of a place in an international, national and local context. Places of cultural significance have been described as those which “enrich people’s lives, often providing a deep and inspirational sense of connection to the community and landscape, to the past and lived experiences” (ICOMOS Charter 2013, 1).

The cultural significance of St Doulagh’s is multi-layered and encompasses all of the values set out in the Burra Charter – aesthetic, historic, scientific, social and spiritual (ICOMOS 2013, Article 1.2). The present assessment concerns the cultural significance of St Doulagh’s, as well as considering the key elements and values of the place.

The criteria used in assessing degrees of significance include rarity, quality, integrity, cultural/historical associations and the ability to demonstrate important social or cultural phenomena. The values that define the cultural significance of St Doulagh’s derive from the authenticity of its archaeological and built heritage, its historic and contemporary spiritual value, its rich ecology and aesthetic landscape setting, and the intangible cultural traditions associated with the place. In addition, there are social, spiritual and economic values associated with the place.

### 6.2 The Values of the Place

#### 6.2.1 Aesthetic Value

St Doulagh’s is situated atop a low hill in gently undulating pasture with views in all cardinal directions. The church is nested within a sub-rectangular graveyard that is defined by a curving masonry wall and earthen bank. To the north and northwest, St Doulagh’s Field comprises a natural oasis with a high level of biodiversity, that includes well-managed grasslands, woodlands and historic structures that support a variety of species, including bats, birds, mammals, invertebrates and flora. The natural environment enhances the character, setting and historical significance of the place and also contributes to the spiritual value of St Doulagh’s.

The natural environment of St Doulagh’s includes a number of trees of high heritage and historic value. These include the mature hawthorn at St Doulagh’s Well that formed part of devotional rituals at the site, as well as mature yew, beech and sycamore trees in St Doulagh’s Field and the graveyard. The nineteenth-century lime avenue, which delimits the northeastern edge of St Doulagh’s Field and is depicted on historic mapping, is a feature of exceptional aesthetic, ecological and historic value.

The authenticity, preservation and rarity of the built heritage of St Doulagh's also contributes to the aesthetic value of the place. The historic fabric of St Doulagh's Church incorporates different construction materials and structural features that enhance the beauty and time-depth of the building. The interior of the church includes fixtures, fittings, artworks and architectural elements of various dates that further enrich the visual and aesthetic value of St Doulagh's.

### **6.2.2 Historic Value**

St Doulagh's comprises a unique cultural landscape of significant time-depth that has been a focus of religious worship, settlement and pilgrimage for over a millennium. The site is associated with the early seventh century Dúileach, who is mentioned in medieval texts. Research on the site to date have demonstrated the place was a locus of settlement and religious activity from the ninth century AD, if not earlier. St Doulagh's also has clear associations with Fingal's Hiberno-Norse communities, as well as the subsequent Anglo-Norman colonists. The medieval church is mentioned in the documentary sources and continued in use throughout the religious wars and upheaval of the post-medieval period. Thus, the historic church building has incalculable value as a tangible record of those who have gone before us, of their lives and of their aspirations and achievements (e.g. DAHG 2011b, 11).

The historic value of St Doulagh's through the stewardship of the Representative Church Body, the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's, the Friends of St Doulagh's Church and the statutory and non-statutory agencies, will be conserved for future generations. The location, heritage and setting, the role of the church, the interactions of people both in the past and the present with the site are all important attributes which add to a sense of identity and place on a local and regional level.

### **6.2.3 Scientific and Educational Value**

St Doulagh's Church and St Doulagh's Well are rated as being of national significance in the NIAH Building Survey. Moreover, the church and the two holy wells are Recorded Monuments and Protected Structures. The authenticity, complexity, uniqueness and integrity of the archaeological and built heritage of the place has intrigued and confounded researchers for generations. Significant archaeological discoveries have been made on the site; however, there is still a great deal to be discovered about St Doulagh's Church, the Baptistry, St Catherine's Well and the graveyard, as well as the recorded and unrecovered subsurface archaeological remains that form part of the cultural landscape of the place.

The buildings, archaeological monuments, architectural elements, the respective ecological habitats, and probable undiscovered subsurface archaeological remains offers a valuable scientific and educational resource, with demonstrable potential for new discoveries, knowledge and community

engagement that will benefit historians, ecologists, archaeologists, genealogists and the local community.

#### **6.2.4 Social and Economic Value**

The parishioners of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's and the local community have a deep attachment to St Doulagh's, as evidenced by the formation of the Friends of St Doulagh's Church, whose initiative and concern for the monument, with support from the Church of Ireland, Fingal County Council and the DHLGH has motivated the compilation of this CMP. The site has the potential to become a sustainable attraction that hosts small tour groups, arts and cultural events, heritage workshops and biodiversity projects.

#### **6.2.5 Spiritual Value**

Places of worship play a central part in the spiritual and family lives of many people and have done so for generations. St Doulagh's is a place of Christian worship, spiritual value, solace and of remembrance; the place has been a centre of religious worship, burial and pilgrimage for well over a millennium. The site, which continues to be a place of active religious worship, forms an important and intrinsic aspect of local identity and belief systems. The long ecclesiastical connection with the place is an inheritance of national significance.

### **6.3 Statement of Significance**

St Doulagh's is a place of unique social, historical, archaeological, architectural, ecological and cultural heritage significance of national importance. The church is a structure of great beauty, complexity, rarity, architectural integrity and time-depth. The cultural significance of St Doulagh's is multi-layered, and it is a place that offers a deep sense of continuity and connection with the past. A key aspect of the significance of St Doulagh's lies in its continual use as a place of ecclesiastical worship for over a millennium. The long ecclesiastical connection with the place is a nationally significant inheritance.

## 7 Conservation Issues and Vulnerabilities

This section outlines the key issues and vulnerabilities of the site that have been identified through the CMP process. These are common to many places of cultural significance. Both the archaeological and historic environment are the product of thousands of years of human intervention. This cultural landscape has been altered over time as field systems, houses, farm buildings and land use developed and changed. Due to a combination of the local farming practices and the attachment of the local community to the place, coupled with the national planning, development and heritage legislation, the landscape setting of the church and graveyard has largely survived.

### 7.1 The Purpose of Identifying Issues and Vulnerabilities

One of the key objectives of the CMP is to ensure the place and its significance is understood and to identify any threats or issues that might undermine this significance. Such issues can range from sudden natural or human events that cause damage to buildings and monuments to long-term attrition through weathering. Issues can also arise from gaps in understanding a place, potential conflicts between different values, such as conservation and religious worship, or a divergence between different approaches to conserving and managing the site.

### 7.2 Identifying Issues and Vulnerabilities

The process of identifying issues and vulnerabilities at St Doulagh's has been informed by assessment of the condition of the monuments, buildings and ecological heritage through the CMP process.

#### 7.2.1 The Condition of the Monuments

The aim of the Condition Survey/Technical Analysis for St Doulagh's was to identify threats to the significance of St Doulagh's and provide guidance on how best to conserve the significance and fabric of St Doulagh's into the future (Figure 3–Figure 5; see also Southgate *et al.* 2024, Table 1).

The Condition Survey is included as an annex to the CMP.

##### 7.2.1.1 St Doulagh's Church

The east window to the chancel of St Doulagh's Church was treated with a lime-based shelter coat with the addition of fine sand, which has spalled. In addition, alveolar, or wind-based decay, is evident in the central mullion of the east window. This effect involves salts concentrating in pockets to form deep depressions within the stone, while other areas are protected by surface deposits. This form of decay is associated with exposure to wind and rapid wetting and drying (Southgate *et al.* 2024, 2–3).

The following steps are recommended to protect and monitor the medieval east window to the chancel:

- XRF<sup>111</sup> (X-Ray Fluorescence) spectroscopy should be carried out of the central mullion of the east window to the chancel to determine the calcium carbonate content of the stone.
- Depending on test results, stabilisation of a trial area is recommended. If the sandstone is calcareous, friable material should be removed from damaged areas and the surface treated with a nano-lime consolidant. If the stone is siliceous, then a silicic acid ester consolidant should be trialled.

The original medieval packed earthen floor is extant in parts of the chancel and tower. Such floors typically consist of a mix of clay, ash, straw and water that were sometimes beaten to a hard finish. Earthen floors of this period are rare, sensitive to change and require careful consideration prior to conservation measures being implemented. The continuous use of the floors in St Doulagh's is impacting their surfaces and resulting in the loss of original material (Southgate *et al.* 2024, 4). The following steps are recommended to protect and conserve these significance surfaces:

- In terms of best practice conservation standards, the ideal is to avoid the actions that result in the loss of the original material. Therefore, a series of short wooden paths should be laid across the areas with earthen flooring, without causing damage to the floors. This intervention will redirect and limit footfall on the fragile medieval floors.
- The paths should extend from the entrance to the interior of the rooms, and along the internal wall for about 2–3m. This will enable visitors to access the and view the rooms without impacting the earthen floors.
- A sample should be obtained of the earthen floor to analyse constituent parts and for dating purposes.

In 2019, Oldstone Conservation and Lisa Edden sensitively restored the medieval stone roof and walls and rectified the sources of water ingress into the church. The biological growth has been eradicated from large parts of the interior of the structure and water ingress is no longer posing a significant issue to the structural integrity of the building. However, parts of the medieval church have not yet fully dried-out. The following measures are recommended to accelerate this process:

- A constant low flow of cold air should be maintained in the building using cold air blowers, which will allow damp air to exit and walls to dry out.
- Windows and doors should be left open on dry days when the church is in use.
- UV heaters and/or lights should be used to kill mould, mildew spores and dry out the structure.
- Install a Charge Neutralization Technology (CNT) dehumidification system with sensors to monitor rising damp in the medieval masonry walls and decrease any water levels.

Some of the Victorian floor tiles in the nineteenth-century nave are damaged from continuous use. It is therefore recommended to proceed with a safe repair of these tiles to preserve the floor's original

---

<sup>111</sup> XRF spectroscopy is a non-destructive analytical technique used to determine the elemental composition of materials. XRF analysers determine the chemistry of a sample by measuring the fluorescent (or secondary) X-ray emitted from a sample when it is excited by a primary X-ray source.

aspect and stop the degradation before it becomes irreversible. The conservation process should include the following interventions:

- The tiles should be cleaned and any microbiological growth removed. Chemical products, wire wool brushes or hard abrasives should not be used, instead the tiles should be cleaned with soft brushes and water.
- Loose and fragile tiles should be rebedded and regouted using compatible mortars of appropriate strength for the tiles.
- The historic floor should remain uncovered and exposed to ventilation to avoid the formation of damp and/or mould.
- Ensure that areas of broken tiles are protected by redirecting footfall to other less vulnerable parts of the nave.
- Mats should be laid at the entrance of the church to remove dirt and grit from shoes.

#### **7.2.1.2 St Doulagh's Well and St Catherine's Well**

The Condition Survey technically assessed the condition of St Doulagh's Church/the Baptistry and St Catherine's Well/the vault (Southgate *et al.* 2024, 8–11), which was reconstructed in part during the 1989–90 programme of works at St Doulagh's (Swan 1989). During the 1989–90 repair works the exterior of the octagonal structure of the Baptistry was repointed with cement pointing. This has cracked in places and is causing water ingress and the establishment of vegetation (Southgate *et al.* 2024, 8). In addition, the exterior string course is broken, meaning water is running down the exterior of structure and entering into the interior.

St Doulagh's Well and the associated bath/trough are now dry. However, there is water in the vault of St Catherine's well, which suggests that the karst spring is still active and feeding the well (e.g. Plate 28). The vault is full of litter and overgrowth and needs to be cleaned-out. If this is undertaken, it may assist in reintroducing water into St Doulagh's Well and the associated bath/trough, which are linked to St Catherine's Well (see Swan 1989).

The responses from the thermal imaging survey of the interior of Baptistry were generally good, although, the presence of differential heating and plaster damage in certain areas created thermal noise or interference (Roche 2024, 4). For example, large temperature variations were created by the window and door openings that created broad thermal contrasts that limited the visibility of more subtle variations (*ibid.*). The most promising results came from the main ceiling and the areas above the window openings, which exhibited a lower impact from differential heating and broad temperature ranges (*ibid.*).

Seventeen areas of thermal contrast were identified within the Baptistry (C1 to C17), which largely presented as amorphous anomalies that were difficult to definitively interpret (Roche 2024, 4). However, the anomalies could not be attributed to differential heating caused by the window openings



or visible damage to the plaster. This suggests the contrasts may relate to thermal variations of less visible underlying materials, such as the remnants of murals (*ibid.*).

Ten of the thermal contrasts were of particular note (C1, C4–6, C10–14, C16) as they corresponded with areas of colour variation visible on the plaster. This suggests an origin other than underlying damage or moisture variation for these anomalies (Roche 2024, 4). In particular, anomaly C14 offered the greatest potential for surviving mural elements. It is roughly cruciform in morphology and is located within the upper portion of the southeast internal façade, which is an area where there is good preservation of plaster (*ibid.*).

A report detailing the findings of the thermal imaging survey is included as an annex to the CMP.

The recommendations for St Catherine's Well and St Doulagh's Well include the following:

- St Catherine's Well and St Doulagh's Well should be cleaned out under archaeological supervision to ascertain if it is possible to reintroduce water into St Doulagh's Well and the associated bath/trough.
- A photogrammetry survey and laser scan should be carried out of the Baptistry and adjoining St Catherine's Well to provide a baseline survey and record of the structures and their preservation status. These surveys should be undertaken in advance of any repair and/or conservation interventions.
- Undertake XRF spectroscopy of the interior of the octagonal structure of the Baptistry to look for further evidence of seventeenth-century pigments. In addition, the exterior of both wells should be XRF tested to inform analysis for the preparation of new mortars.
- Obtain mortar samples from a secure location in the Baptistry and the vault/St Catherine's Well for analysis for the preparation of new mortars and radiocarbon dating.
- Prior to any repair works to masonry, vegetation should be carefully treated and removed from the exterior of the Baptistry using a glyphosate-based herbicide.
- The broken string course/drip course is allowing water ingress to the interior of the Baptistry. The stones should be reset and re-bed with comparable mortars to the medieval structure.
- A program of repointing in lime to the exterior of the Baptistry and vault after vegetation treatment together with a hydrophobic coating to the roof is recommended.
- Repointing should be carried out using an NHL 3.5 hydraulic lime. For larger voids an Oolitic stone dust could be added; dust can be sieved to the required level.
- To differentiate between the new work and the rest of the medieval stonework, it is suggested that a sandstone aggregate (510mm) is used in the mix to provide a subtle variation in texture to the medieval work.
- The interior of the Baptistry should be monitored following the repair of the string course and the repointing of the exterior to ensure it is drying-out.
- The steps and paving slabs to the south of the Baptistry should be evaluated, repaired, reset and bedded in lime mortar.
- Granite or limestone flags should be bedded in the traditional manner on a support layer of thoroughly compacted sand.

- The locks on St Catherine's Well and St Doulagh's Well should be replaced to avoid anti-social behaviour.

### 7.2.1.3 The Graveyard

The graveyard contains historic memorials, graves slabs, headstones and crosses that in a poor state of conservation (Figure 3). Several memorials are broken in two or more pieces and have fallen and/or subsided from their original position (Plate 21 and Plate 22). In order to preserve the graveyard and its cultural, historic and archaeological significance and reinstate and conserve the memorials the following interventions are recommended.

- In the first instance, an accurate survey of the memorials, graves slabs, headstones and crosses and their location should be carried out using photogrammetry and a laser scanner. This will provide a baseline survey and record of their preservation status in advance of any repair and conservation intervention. The survey could be undertaken in tandem with, and inform, the updated Graveyard Survey.
- A number of headstones, memorials and grave slabs are broken, have dislodged and/or fallen and are in need of repair. These should be reset and sympathetically repaired in accordance with best conservation principles.
- Lichens should not be removed from grave slabs and memorials, as their removal can damage the surface of the stonework, particularly in the case of lettered stone (e.g. DEHLG 2010b, 58). In addition, headstones can often harbour important lichen species, which may be obliterated by indiscriminate cleaning (*ibid.*, 66).
- The repair work should consist of putting the broken pieces of sculptures together using metal rods to ensure proper structural integrity. All cracks, chips and dings should to be filled, polished and treated.
- The enclosing walls of the graveyard and the approach walls along the avenue are in need of maintenance and repair.
- Excess overgrowth in the graveyard should be cleared and maintained, while retaining groundcover to avoid erosion and subsidence.

### 7.2.2 Ecological Heritage

The *Ecology Survey and Biodiversity Plan* (Douglas 2024), which is included as an annex to the CMP, lists the species that were identified during the Ecology Survey and Bat Survey. In particular, the *Biodiversity Plan* noted that the historical and current management of the site are highly favourable for biodiversity and St Doulagh's is performing close to its maximum for biodiversity (Douglas 2024, 8). However, the following steps were recommended to improve habitats for flora and fauna, particularly with regard to roosting bats.

- Large permanent uplights have been placed around St Doulagh's Well/the Baptistry in an attempt to counteract antisocial behaviour. Floodlighting and uplighting installations negatively impact natural heritage by affecting the activity rhythms of plants and animals (DEHLG 2010b, 64). In particular, they are detrimental to local bat populations, particularly during the emergence and re-entering of roost sites.

- If possible, the lighting on St Doulagh's Well/the Baptistry should be changed to sensor lighting, like that surrounding the church, in order to comply with guidelines relating to bats.
- LED luminaires should be used for lighting, as they are highly directional, have lower intensity, have good colour rendition and have dimming capability. A warm white spectrum (<2700 kelvins) should be used to reduce the blue light component of the LED spectrum. Luminaires should feature peak wavelengths higher than 550nm to avoid the component of light most disturbing to bats.
- Advice should be sought from the Fingal Biodiversity Officer, the NPWS and the NMS<sup>112</sup> regarding the most appropriate lighting for St Doulagh's Well/the Baptistry from a biodiversity perspective.<sup>113</sup>
- The quality of bat foraging habitat in St Doulagh's Field and the graveyard could be improved with the addition of artificial roosting features in some of the larger trees onsite. Two of the Flat Bat Colony Box (3FF) should be fitted to a mature tree along the northern boundary of St Doulagh's Field with a second fitted to a mature tree in the graveyard. In addition, four Schwegler Universal Bat Boxes (1FFH) should be clustered around the edge of the site.
- A follow-up nighttime Bat Survey should be carried out during the May to September survey season to ascertain what species of bats are roosting in the church and where they are roosting, and to investigate if bats are also roosting in St Doulagh's Field.

### 7.2.3 Arboricultural Heritage

The north, south, and west of the site are wrapped in a thick band of trees, with another treeline along the Malahide Road to the east. The trees predominantly consist of common beech, small-leaved lime, ash and sycamore, with lesser quantities of hazel, yew, rowan and hawthorn (Goodwin 2024, Appendix 1). Arboriculturally, the most notable trees include two yew trees in the churchyard, the hawthorn in the retaining wall of the Baptistry and two sycamore trees in the graveyard (*ibid.*).

The key vulnerability affecting the trees onsite is the prevalence of ash dieback disease, with numerous dead or dying ash specimens. Currently advised priority works are detailed in the Tree Schedule of the Arboricultural Report (Goodwin 2024, Appendix 1), which includes the following recommendations:

- Dead and dying ash trees along the treeline on the Malahide Road should be removed.
- Basal ivy should be removed from the trees along the Malahide Road. Following this, the trees should be reassessed by an arboriculturist, subject to confirmation of ownership, and managed to comply with section 70 of the Roads Act 1993.

---

<sup>112</sup> The NMS should be consulted regarding the floodlighting as the Baptistry and St Doulagh's Church are Recorded Monuments. Furthermore, the church is a Protected Structure and planning permission is likely to be required for the lights. Alternatives to floodlight uplighting include cross-lighting and back-lighting, which help to avoid light pollution. Similarly, lights should be kept to a minimum and lighting should only be left on from dusk to midnight.

<sup>113</sup> Bat Conservation Ireland have produced guidance notes on *Bats & Lighting* (2010). Available at: [https://www.batconservationireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/BCIrelandGuidelines\\_Lighting.pdf](https://www.batconservationireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/BCIrelandGuidelines_Lighting.pdf) [Accessed: 29.10.24].

- The lime avenue along the northern part of St Doulagh's Field is a feature of exceptional value that should be periodically monitored by a suitably qualified professional.
- Periodic checks should be carried out on the woodland delineating the west of the graveyard to remove dead and damaged trees.
- The Japanese cherry in the southeast corner of the graveyard is dead and should be felled, with a review of the stump treatment. Similarly, a small multi-stemmed ash in northern lawn area of the graveyard is infected with ash dieback. The base of the ash tree is encroaching on a headstone and the tree should be felled.
- The condition of the trees should be regularly monitored, particularly after any extreme storm events.

#### **7.2.4 Knowledge and Information**

It is accepted and understood that St Doulagh's is an important ecclesiastical foundation and locus of religious worship, with upstanding elements and extensive subsurface features. However, there are a number of gaps in our knowledge that have a bearing on our understanding of the chronology, development and significance of the site.

To increase our knowledge the following steps are recommended:

- Further archaeological excavation will complement the lack of historical documentation for the site, particularly during the early medieval period and the Middle Ages, and build on the findings of the 1989/90 excavations by Leo Swan and the 2015 excavation by Resurrecting Monuments.
- There are a number of Bronze Age sites in the study area, while monuments dating to the Neolithic period occur in the wider area. However, we have little understanding of the extent of prehistoric settlement in the townland of Saintdoolaghs. With the permission of landowners, fieldwalking surveys should be carried out in ploughed fields in the local area. The key objective of such surveys will be to record artefact scatters that may mark the location of plough-levelled archaeological sites.
- Promote and support the use of non-invasive archaeological techniques onsite. These may include LiDAR survey, thermal imaging survey, magnetometry survey, ortho photos and drone survey. For example, a UAV-based thermal survey of St Doulagh's Field and the immediate environs could detect any thermal contrast caused by unmarked graves and subsurface archaeological features.
- Geophysical survey offers a non-invasive approach to assess the character and extent of subsurface archaeological features, as demonstrated by the results from the 2009 survey by TARGET Archaeological Geophysics (Nicholls 2010). With the permission of landowners, future geophysical surveys could build on the results of the 2009 gradiometer survey and resistance survey and improve the resolution.
- Magnetometry measures variations in the magnetic properties of soils and is widely used in geophysical prospection due to its ability to detect and map a broad range of subsurface archaeological remains, including ditches and pits as well as burnt or fired features. The magnetometer surveys carried out to date utilised 0.25m x 0.5m resolution. Future surveys could be carried out at 0.25m x 0.25m resolution and possibly expanded to include further survey areas to the south and west.

- Obtain funding for a 3D laser scan, or comparable reality capture technology such as photogrammetry survey, to produce a 3D model of St Doulagh's Well, St Catherine's Well and the medieval cross. This should be made available online in tandem with the existing Matterport tour of St Doulagh's Church and St Doulagh's Well to enable virtual interaction with and appreciation of the site, particularly for people with disabilities and people who might not ordinarily be able to visit the site.
- Engage a suitably qualified professional to obtain samples of mortar from the chancel, tower and Baptistry for analysis and radiocarbon dating. The samples, which should only be obtained under licence from the NMS, should also inform the development of mortars for any future conservation works.
- Ensure funding for a detailed historical analysis of the site's development by a suitably qualified medieval and early modern researcher, with reference to church records, the archives of the Representative Church Body Library, estate maps, deeds and other primary and secondary sources.
- Develop an oral history project that records local folklore and traditions concerning the church and holy wells, as well as the local history and field names of the townland of Saintdoolaghs. The results should be added to the NFC records, as well as to the collections of the NFC Digitization Project, Dúchas.ie<sup>114</sup> and Fingal Local Studies and Archives.<sup>115</sup>
- Develop a strategy and obtain funding for an updated survey of the graveyard that builds on the existing surveys by Fingal County Council (FCC 2008) and the Friends of St Doulagh's Church. The results of the graveyard survey should be made available online to enable genealogical and historical research. The survey should include a grave marker/grave slab assessment to assess the condition of the grave markers and devise a conservation strategy going forward.

### **7.2.5 Climate Change and Sustainability**

Studies of the climate record in Ireland clearly show that the long-term prevailing weather conditions (i.e. the climate) are changing (Dwyer 2012). The late twentieth century was characterised by an upward trend in temperatures, resulting in warmer and wetter winters, and hotter, drier summers, accompanied by an increase in extreme weather events. This pattern is likely to continue (DCHG 2013, 18; Nolan 2015).

St Doulagh's Church, the Baptistry, St Catherine's Well, subsurface burials and archaeological remains, the post-medieval and modern grave slabs and headstones, ecological heritage and other built heritage elements are vulnerable to climate change related events such as storm damage, heavy and intense rainfall, flooding, wildfires and windthrow. For instance, extreme precipitation may result in surface erosion and weathering, microbiological growth, subsidence, masonry collapse and altered preservation conditions. Hotter summers with prolonged drought conditions may cause increased

---

<sup>114</sup> Available at: <https://www.duchas.ie/en> [Accessed: 27.11.24].

<sup>115</sup> For more information see: <https://www.fingal.ie/LocalStudiesArchives> [Accessed: 28.11.24].

thermal weathering and risk of fires, change burial-preservation conditions and accelerate deterioration and desiccation of organics.

The key objectives of the *Built and Archaeological Heritage Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan* (DCHG 2019) include to build adaptive capacity within the sector and reduce the vulnerability of built and archaeological heritage to climate change. The direct effects of climate change on built and archaeological heritage may be immediate or cumulative – damage from catastrophic events such as storms and floods are likely to increase at the same time as slow-onset environmental mechanisms (DCHG 2013, 20).

In 2021, the *Fingal Cultural Heritage & Climate Change Risk Assessment*<sup>116</sup> was carried out to support Action F25 of the *Climate Action Plan 2019–2024* (FCC 2019, 81). The baseline risk assessment considered the risk to heritage assets from six climate change hazards: fluvial flooding, pluvial flooding, groundwater flooding, coastal flooding, coastal erosion and slope instability (FCC 2021a, 2). Each heritage asset was assigned a risk and impact score for each natural hazard.<sup>117</sup> The scores were assigned on a scale from 0–5, where 0 represents no potential risk and/or impact from the natural hazard and score 5 is the highest risk<sup>118</sup> (*ibid.*, 28). An accompanying GIS-based web map shows each cultural heritage asset and their respective score bands.<sup>119</sup>

St Doulagh's was included in the *Fingal Cultural Heritage & Climate Change Risk Assessment* (Asset ID A0745). It was assigned an overall total score of 9, with the likeliest impacts occurring from pluvial flooding and slope instability (FCC 2021a, 167). The site is also being monitored by the Fingal Climate Action Team.

Proactive actions should be considered to protect St Doulagh's (including built heritage, subsurface burials, archaeological monuments and ecological heritage) from the adverse effects of climate change into the future. Possible actions may include:

- A targeted Risk and Vulnerability Assessment should be carried out to better understand potential risks to cultural and ecological assets from natural hazards. The assessment should

---

<sup>116</sup> Available at: [https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2021-07/fingal-cultural-heritage-risk-assessment-report\\_1.pdf](https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2021-07/fingal-cultural-heritage-risk-assessment-report_1.pdf) [Accessed: 16.10.24].

<sup>117</sup> The risk score is based on the likelihood that the heritage asset will be impacted by a natural hazard, while the impact score is based on the assumed impact the natural hazard will have on the asset (FCC 2021a, 9).

<sup>118</sup> Each cultural heritage asset was assigned twelve scores: one risk and one impact score for each of the six natural hazards. The highest possible score was 150 (FCC 2021a, 28–29).

<sup>119</sup> Available at: <https://luc.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=d3ab54100756429e803104c490f8131e> [Accessed: 16.10.24].

consider additional nature hazards that were not included in the *Fingal Cultural Heritage & Climate Change Risk Assessment*, such as storm damage, wildfires and windthrow.

- Stabilisation and conservation works should be carried out to the Baptistry and Vault to prevent further water ingress.
- Vulnerable grave slabs and headstones in the graveyard should be digitally recorded and monitored on an ongoing basis. Training should be provided to those volunteers who will be undertaking such work.
- Liaise with the NMS, the NBHS and the NMI to enable a rapid and efficient response should human remains be exposed in the graveyard as a result of flooding, storm events, erosion and/or subsidence.
- Suitable groundcover comprising ivy and native species should be encouraged and maintained in the graveyard to counter the effects of erosion and/or subsidence.
- Trees in the graveyard and St Doulagh's Field should be managed and pruned on an annual basis by a suitably qualified specialist to reduce the likelihood of falling trees or branches.

### 7.2.6 Access and Interpretation

At present, St Doulagh's Church is only open to the public for weekly Sunday services and occasional parish events, it is locked and alarmed at all other times. St Doulagh's field, which is managed by Fingal County Council, is a public amenity area that is open to pedestrian traffic during the day. There are issues related to the access to the site, particularly with regards to carparking and disabled visitors. In addition, given the complexity of the site, there is more that can be done to develop the interpretation options for the site.

The key vulnerabilities and issues include the following:

- The existing car parking infrastructure comprises a small area on the avenue leading to the church and on the grassed area in the southeast of St Doulagh's Field. The parking in St Doulagh's Field is damaging the grassland, particularly during the winter months. Furthermore, the existing parking is not sufficiently robust to cope with existing parishioners or any future growth in the number of visitors.
- The Malahide Road is a busy road with a large number of vehicles that causes safety issues for visiting pedestrians and cyclists.
- There is uncontrolled access to the graveyard and St Doulagh's Field from a number of locations, particularly the Malahide Road. This creates problems relating to anti-social behaviour and damage to the monuments, particularly in the graveyard and at the well sites.
- The locks on the Baptistry and St Catherine's Well have been removed and the monuments are accessible to all. The structures should be fitted with new locks to ensure their interiors are protected and secure.
- There is a need for the provision of a wheelchair access ramp and disabled parking spaces in the avenue leading to the church to ensure universal access.
- There are no toilet facilities onsite.
- There is no exterior signage or QR codes to direct visitors to the existing Matterport tour of the church and well, as well as other information relating to the site. An Interpretation Plan

should be carried out for St Doulagh's to explore other the interpretation options for the site. For example, a series of QR codes could link to information about the cultural and natural heritage of St Doulagh's. Fingal County Council<sup>120</sup> and the Heritage Council<sup>121</sup> have produced guidance on heritage signage, the preparation of interpretation plans and heritage trails.

- The existing guide book for the site was published in 1990, is only in English and has not been updated since. Thus, funding should be sought for the publication of a new guide book and multilingual visitor leaflets.

### **7.2.7 Maintenance and Management**

The general maintenance works that need to be undertaken to ensure the safety, security and comfort of parishioners of and visitors to the church include the following:

- As the church is a historic building it can be cold and difficult to heat. The church could be heated through the use of geothermal energy, or other renewable green energy installations such as heat pumps, solar photovoltaics and biomass boilers.
- The Victorian tiles in the nineteenth-century nave are broken in places and need to be repaired, similarly, the timbers need to be treated.
- The pews in the nave need to be refurbished and the timber doors should be cleaned and repaired.

---

<sup>120</sup> Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2021-06/a4-fcc-heritiage-signage-booklet-eng-web.pdf> [Accessed: 29.10.24].

<sup>121</sup> Available at: [https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/bored\\_of\\_boards\\_1mb.pdf](https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/bored_of_boards_1mb.pdf) [Accessed: 30.10.24].



## **8 Conservation Policies and Actions**

### **8.1 Conservation Philosophy**

This plan allows us to better understand St Doulagh's, assess its significance and help identify issues that threaten its significance. Thus, an overarching framework for identifying, conserving and managing the significance and setting of the place is essential. ICOMOS guidance sets out the internationally recognised best practice principles for cultural heritage conservation. The primary aim of such conservation guidance is to support quality decision-making, with the objective of creating a sustainable, clear and transparent management system for all aspects of the historic environment. The Burra Charter advocates "a cautious approach to change: do as much as necessary to care for the place and to make it useable, but otherwise change it as little as possible so that its cultural significance is retained" (ICOMOS 2013, 1).

International best practice in heritage conservation promotes collaborative approaches in the management and conservation of heritage sites and landscapes. An agreed framework identifies the baseline conditions of the site, sets out proposed aims and actions, and a plan for future measures to conserve and protect the heritage assets identified. This approach also helps ensure that all stakeholders have the opportunity to input into the process and are informed of the part they may play in the site's conservation.

### **8.2 Conservation Policies**

Conservation policies are derived from the significance appraisal and identification of key vulnerabilities, as well as from consultation and collaboration between stakeholders during the preparation of the CMP. These policies are not intended to cast judgement on the maintenance and management of the site to date, but rather are intended to represent a vision for how St Doulagh's, a site of national significance and importance, can be preserved long-term and enhanced into the future.

Some policies will necessitate the express cooperation between the Representative Church Body of the Church of Ireland, the Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's, Fingal County Council, the NMS and NBHS of the DHLGH.

The heritage of St Doulagh's is a valuable, non-renewable resource. Thus, the conservation and management of St Doulagh's is informed by an international set of principles expressed in the Burra Charter and four overarching policies specific to St Doulagh's (Table 6).

**Table 6: Conservation policies for St Doulagh's.**

<b>Overarching Conservation Policies for St Doulagh's</b>	
<b>Policy 1</b>	<b>Protection</b> Protect and conserve the unique archaeological, architectural, ecological and intangible cultural heritage of St Doulagh's and maintain the cultural significance, authenticity and integrity of this nationally significant place.
<b>Policy 2</b>	<b>Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance</b> Ensure the archaeological, architectural, ecological and intangible cultural heritage significance of St Doulagh's is retained, protected, managed and enhanced in accordance with international best practice with regard to any intervention, conservation and/or stabilisation works.
<b>Policy 3</b>	<b>Research and Education</b> Foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the significance of St Doulagh's. Promote research that will add to and enhance existing knowledge about the archaeology, history and folklore of the place and the surrounding landscape.
<b>Policy 4</b>	<b>Access and Interpretation</b> Facilitate sustainable universal access to the place and promote appropriate interpretation of the heritage of St Doulagh's, its character and significance.

### 8.3 Conservation Actions

The conservation priorities documented in this Management Plan have demonstrated the need for:

1. Ongoing stewardship and protection of St Doulagh's.
2. A programme of conservation, repair and maintenance works to ensure the protection of the place, which should also be managed and monitored on an ongoing basis.
3. A programme of research to develop and increase our understanding of the place.
4. Sustainable access to the place and an interpretive strategy that engenders further appreciation of St Doulagh's.

A series of recommended actions in relation to Policy 1 to Policy 4 are detailed below in Table 7 to Table 10, which set out how to achieve these requirements. A timeline detailing the key works that should be undertaken in the short-term, medium-term and long-term is detailed in Appendix 11. In addition, Appendix 11 lists specific actions that should be adhered to throughout the duration of the Management Plan (2025–35), as they relate to the ongoing management, monitoring and maintenance of St Doulagh's.

#### 8.3.1 Policy 1: Protection

*Protect and conserve the unique archaeological, architectural, ecological and intangible cultural heritage of St Doulagh's and maintain the cultural significance, authenticity and integrity of this nationally significant place.*

The recommended actions to be implemented for Policy 1 of the CMP are detailed below in Table 7.

**Table 7: Recommended actions to be implemented for Policy 1.**

<b>Policy 1: Protection</b>	
<b>P01-A01</b>	Protect and conserve the unique character of St Doulagh's.

Policy 1: Protection	
<b>P01-A02</b>	Protect the historic setting of the church, graveyard and St Doulagh's Field and conserve the archaeological and architectural heritage of the place.
<b>P01-A03</b>	Encourage continued collaboration between key stakeholders to ensure the protection and preservation of the site.
<b>P01-A04</b>	Provide the Representative Church Body of the Church of Ireland, the Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's, Fingal County Council and the Friends of St Doulagh's Church with best-practice advice and practical guidance in relation to the protection of the heritage of the place.
<b>P01-A05</b>	Develop a framework for monitoring the impacts of climate change to the site. Ensure that potential impacts arising from climate change to the heritage assets is widely understood, communicated and appreciated. Ensure that suitable mitigation is devised in collaboration with key stakeholders, as appropriate.
<b>P01-A06</b>	Ensure that statutory obligations in relation to conservation, repair and maintenance works to monuments are observed, understood and are undertaken with the requisite licences, assessments and approvals in place. <sup>122</sup>
<b>P01-A07</b>	Undertake a Risk and Vulnerability Assessment to ascertain potential impacts to cultural and ecological assets arising from climate change and natural hazards.
<b>P01-A08</b>	Protect and preserve the medieval earthen floors in the church and tower by laying a series of short wooden paths across the areas of flooring, so as to redirect and limit footfall.
<b>P01-A09</b>	Digitally record and monitor vulnerable memorials, grave slabs and headstones.
<b>P01-A10</b>	Ensure that the historical, spiritual, social, archaeological, architectural and cultural significance of the site is communicated to visitors and the local community to ensure respect and protection for St Doulagh's into the future.

### 8.3.2 Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance

*Ensure the archaeological, architectural, ecological and intangible cultural significance of St Doulagh's is retained, protected, managed and enhanced in accordance with international best practice with regard to any intervention, conservation and/or stabilisation works.*

The recommended actions to be implemented for Policy 2 of the CMP are detailed below in Table 8.

**Table 8: Recommended actions to be implemented for Policy 2.**

Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	
<b>P02-A01</b>	Establish a ten-year programme for the effective maintenance and conservation of the site, with appropriate review by the Representative Church Body, the Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's, Fingal County Council, the Friends of St Doulagh's Church, and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.
<b>P02-A02</b>	Support key stakeholders in the development of a maintenance plan for St Doulagh's that ensures that all conservation, repair and maintenance works are carried out in accordance with best international practice.
<b>P02-A03</b>	Devise a strategy for conservation and maintenance works with key stakeholders that is informed by the Policies and Actions of the CMP.
<b>P02-A04</b>	Establish a site management archive with full records of conservation and repair interventions.
<b>P02-A05</b>	Maintain a constant low flow of cold air in the medieval buildings with the use of cold air blowers. Leave windows and doors open on dry days when the church is in use.

<sup>122</sup> See Appendix 12 for statutory requirements with respect to Recorded Monuments and Protected Structures.

Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	
P02-A06	Employ UV heaters and lights to kill mould, mildew spores and dry out the medieval structure.
P02-A07	Install a CNT dehumidification system with sensors to monitor rising damp in the medieval masonry walls and decrease any water levels.
P02-A08	Clean and repair broken tiles in the nineteenth-century nave and chancel. Re-bed and regrout loose and fragile tiles.
P02-A09	Refurbish the pews in the Victorian nave.
P02-A10	Clean and repair the timber doors of the church.
P02-A11	Explore heating the church through the use of renewable green energy installations.
P02-A12	Clean out St Doulagh's Well in the Baptistry and the vault.
P02-A13	Carefully treat and remove vegetation from the Baptistry and the vault/St Catherine's Well.
P02-A14	Reset and re-bed broken string/drip course on the exterior of Baptistry.
P02-A15	Repoint exterior of Baptistry and vault and coat with a hydrophobic coating.
P02-A16	Reset and re-bed steps and paving slabs to the south of the Baptistry.
P02-A17	Replace locks to the Baptistry and vault to avoid anti-social behaviour.
P02-A18	Reset and repair fallen and broken headstones, memorials and grave slabs in graveyard.
P02-A19	Maintain and repair enclosing walls of graveyard and avenue.
P02-A20	Manage the site to preserve, enhance and improve its biodiversity value, in particular the flora and fauna species that were identified in the Ecology Survey, Bat Survey and Tree Survey.
P02-A21	Support, encourage and protect the biodiversity within the graveyard and St Doulagh's Field and when planting use pollinator friendly species.
P02-A22	Seek advice from the Fingal Heritage Officer, Fingal Biodiversity Officer, the NPWS and the NMS regarding the most appropriate lights to use on St Doulagh's Well/the Baptistry.
P02-A23	Change the lighting on St Doulagh's Well/the Baptistry to sensor lighting with LED Luminaires to comply with guidelines relating to bats.
P02-A24	Fit two Flat Bat Colony Boxes (3FF) to mature trees along the northern boundary of St Doulagh's Field and fit another to a mature tree in the graveyard.
P02-A25	Cluster four Schwegler Universal Bat Boxes (1FFH) on trees around the edge of the site
P02-A26	Install bird boxes in trees around the site to increase the nesting potential for crevice nesting birds such as the blue tit ( <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> ) and great tit ( <i>Parus major</i> ).
P02-A27	Convert the grassy margin along the Malahide Road to a flower-rich margin to encourage insects (including pollinators), mammal and bird populations.
P02-A28	Ensure the health and survival of the mature yew tree in the churchyard through ongoing pruning and monitoring.
P02-A29	Monitor and manage the hawthorn in the retaining wall of the Baptistry to ensure its survival.
P02-A30	Monitor and manage the historic lime avenue in the north of St Doulagh's Field to ensure the health and preservation of the trees.
P02-A31	Remove dead and dying ash trees in the graveyard and along the treeline on the Malahide Road.
P02-A32	Manage the trees along the Malahide Road to comply with section 70 of the Roads Act 1993.
P02-A33	Fell the Japanese cherry in the southeast corner of the graveyard and leave the stump <i>in situ</i> .
P02-A34	Leave dead wood <i>in situ</i> onsite to support habitats for fungi and invertebrates.
P02-A35	Maintain suitable groundcover in the graveyard, particularly ivy and native species, to counter the effects of erosion and subsidence, provide food for pollinators and habitat for invertebrates.

Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	
<b>P02-A36</b>	Only thin trees and cut back vegetation outside of the nesting season and under the supervision of a specialist to ensure that any impacts to local fauna are minimised.
<b>P02-A37</b>	Control vegetation and protect any relict plant species with localised strimming at key times of year, as recommended by an ecologist.
<b>P02-A38</b>	Retain ivy on trees to support hibernating bats, pollinators and other invertebrates.
<b>P02-A39</b>	Ensure that appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into any proposals for conservation and/or maintenance works to ensure that activities do not have adverse impacts on the local flora and fauna.
<b>P02-A40</b>	Secure resources and explore all available funding opportunities to enable conservation and maintenance works, biodiversity enhancements and ongoing management of the site to be carried out.
<b>P02-A41</b>	Promote a Leave No Trace principle at the site.

### 8.3.3 Policy 3: Research and Education

*Foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the significance of St Doulagh's. To promote research that will add to and enhance existing knowledge about the archaeology, history and folklore of the place and the surrounding landscape.*

The recommended actions to be implemented for Policy 3 of the CMP are detailed below in Table 9.

**Table 9: Recommended actions to be implemented for Policy 3.**

Policy 3: Research and Education	
<b>P03-A01</b>	Carry out a follow-up nighttime Bat Survey during the survey season to ascertain where bats are roosting in the church and what species are using the site.
<b>P03-A02</b>	Carry out an Owl Survey during the May to September nesting season. Any findings should be added to the National Biodiversity Centre database.
<b>P03-A03</b>	Promote and support the use of non-invasive archaeological techniques, such as LiDAR survey, thermal imaging survey, magnetometry survey, ortho photos and drone survey onsite.
<b>P03-A04</b>	Undertake a 3D laser scan and/or photogrammetry survey of St Doulagh's Well, St Catherine's Well, the medieval cross and the memorials in the graveyard to generate baseline 3D models of the monuments.
<b>P03-A05</b>	Obtain mortar samples from secure undisturbed areas of the oratory, tower and Baptistry for analysis of the component parts and radiocarbon dating.
<b>P03-A06</b>	Obtain a sample of the earthen floor in the upper levels of the tower to analyse constituent parts and for dating purposes.
<b>P03-A07</b>	Carry out XRF spectroscopy of the central mullion of the east window to the chancel to determine the calcium carbonate content of the stone.
<b>P03-A08</b>	Carry out XRF spectroscopy of the interior of the Baptistry and the vault.
<b>P03-A09</b>	Ensure that archaeological and built heritage surveys, as well as any conservation works are undertaken by suitably qualified practitioners with the requisite skills to conduct such works.
<b>P03-A10</b>	Foster local awareness of the archaeological and heritage value of the site through the development of a community archaeology project that builds on the existing archaeological and survey work, in consultation with the Fingal Heritage Officer and the NMS.
<b>P03-A11</b>	Ensure funding for a detailed historical analysis of the site's development by a suitably qualified medieval and early modern researcher, with reference to church records, the archives of the Representative Church Body Library, estate maps, deeds and other primary and secondary sources.

Policy 3: Research and Education	
<b>P03-A12</b>	Investigate the evidence for prehistoric archaeology in the local area through the development of fieldwalking surveys in local ploughed fields.
<b>P03-A13</b>	Develop an oral history project that records folklore and traditions concerning the church and holy wells, as well as the local history and field names of the townland of Saintdoolaghs.
<b>P03-A14</b>	Undertake an updated Graveyard Survey that builds on the existing surveys by Fingal County Council (FCC 2008) and the Friends of St Doulagh's Church.
<b>P03-A15</b>	Further research links with local schools, colleges, universities and other learning institutions, as well as local history and archaeology groups, to gain a better understanding of the church, ecclesiastical site and associated remains through time.
<b>P03-A16</b>	Ensure that findings from all studies, surveys and works are disseminated as widely as possible and in a format that respects the target audience.

### 8.3.4 Policy 4: Access and Interpretation

*Facilitate sustainable universal access to the place and promote appropriate interpretation of the heritage of St Doulagh's, its character and significance.*

The recommended actions to be implemented for Policy 4 of the CMP are detailed below in Table 10.

**Table 10: Recommended actions to be implemented for Policy 4.**

Policy 4: Access and Interpretation	
<b>P04-A01</b>	Develop sustainable events, small group tours, workshops, lectures and recitals at St Doulagh's that respect the integrity, authenticity and heritage of the place.
<b>P04-A02</b>	Increase the heritage profile of St Doulagh's by making the church more accessible to the local community for events, lectures, recitals, workshops and recreational activities.
<b>P04-A03</b>	Facilitate public access and sustainable use of the place, while also implementing security measures to limit antisocial behaviour.
<b>P04-A04</b>	Implement measures to facilitate sustainable access for arrivals to site respecting its setting, significance and environs, having regard to traffic and parking issues, public transport, cycling and pedestrians.
<b>P04-A05</b>	Promote positive behaviour of visitors and raise awareness of the significance and vulnerability of the heritage of the place.
<b>P04-A06</b>	Develop an Interpretation Plan for the site.
<b>P04-A07</b>	Develop part of St Doulagh's Field as a meditation garden, while respecting the biodiversity, authenticity and integrity of the place.
<b>P04-A08</b>	Develop educational programmes that facilitate an understanding of the significance of St Doulagh's in an archaeological, spiritual, historical, social, architectural and ecological context.
<b>P04-A09</b>	Develop a page on the website of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's <sup>123</sup> that outlines the biodiversity actions being undertaken at St Doulagh's and describes the local habitat.
<b>P04-A10</b>	Explore options for the sympathetic and sustainable parking surfaces in St Doulagh's Field to alleviate damage to the grassland, as well as any subsurface archaeology.
<b>P04-A11</b>	Provide for a wheelchair access ramp and disabled parking spaces along the approach avenue to the church to enable universal access to the site.
<b>P04-A12</b>	Re-gravel approach avenue to the church and the path in the graveyard and around the church.

<sup>123</sup> Available at: <https://malahide.dublin.anglican.org/about-us/st-doulaghs-history/> [Accessed: 28.11.24].

Policy 4: Access and Interpretation	
P04-A13	Include for the provision of toilet facilities onsite.

## **9 Management and Implementation Framework**

St Doulagh's is the property of the Representative Church Body of the Church of Ireland and is managed by the Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's.

This management plan is a dynamic document that will change as management priorities shift, conditions on the site change and as other factors come into play. Regular monitoring of delivery of the Actions by the managers of the site and the key stakeholders will ensure the sustainability of St Doulagh's for present and future generations.

### **9.1 Management Structure**

The current management structure for St Doulagh's is based on the proactive ownership of the Representative Church Body of the Church of Ireland, the management of the Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's, as well as the stewardship provided by the Friends of St Doulagh's Church, Fingal County Council and the local community. In order to steer the implementation of the policies set out in the CMP going forward and facilitate the stewardship of the site, the continued collaboration between these groups is essential.

### **9.2 Management Guidance**

#### **9.2.1 Funding Opportunities**

There are a number of funding opportunities that should be considered by stakeholders to assist with the future conservation, maintenance, interpretation and management of St Doulagh's.

##### **9.2.1.1 Community Monuments Fund**

The core aims of the CMF are the conservation, maintenance, protection and presentation of local archaeological monuments and historic sites. It has a number of funding streams aimed at enabling conservation works to be carried out on monuments that are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support, encouraging access to monuments and improve their presentation and also to build resilience in monuments to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change.

The fund, which is administered by the Fingal Heritage Office for the NMS, of the DHLGH, provides funding for projects in relation to Recorded Monuments and sites listed on the SMR. Stream 1 of the CMF allows for grants up to €100,000 for essential repairs and capital works for the conservation of archaeological monuments. Stream 3 funds up to €30,000 for the enhancement of access infrastructure, interpretation projects and small-scale emergency conservation works at



archaeological monuments. The annual call for the CMF grant schemes is usually announced in mid-November.<sup>124</sup>

#### **9.2.1.2 Historic Structures Fund**

The 'Historic Structures Fund'<sup>125</sup> is provided by the DHLGH and administered through Local Authorities. The primary focus of the Historic Structures Fund is:

- The conservation and enhancement of heritage structures which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support.
- To encourage the regeneration and reuse of heritage properties and to help to secure the preservation of protected structures and/or historic-culturally significant assets.
- To conserve historic structures in public and private ownership for community use and to build resilience in heritage properties to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change.

It is a requirement of the Historic Structures Fund that the applicant engages an appropriately qualified conservation professional to oversee the work and for a comprehensive methodology to be submitted with the application.

#### **9.2.1.3 Built Heritage Investment Scheme**

The BHIS, which is granted by DHLGH and administered by FCC, is for the repair and conservation of Protected Structures or proposed Protected Structures.<sup>126</sup> A key aim of the scheme is to invest in small-scale conservation projects and support the employment of conservation professionals, tradespersons and craftspeople in the repair of the historic built environment. Applications are assessed under the significance of the structure, the efficacy of the works, employment benefits and quality of works proposed. In 2024, the minimum funding awarded was €2,500 up to a maximum of €50,000.

#### **9.2.1.4 Stitch in Time Grant**

The 'Stitch in Time Grant' is offered by Fingal County Council for minor repair/maintenance works or restoration of features to Protected Structures.<sup>127</sup> The scheme is targeted at small-scale works where the cost of works is under €5,000. The types of eligible works include repairs to the original or historic

---

<sup>124</sup> For further details on the 2024 application process see: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/362a1-community-monuments-fund-2024-call-for-projects/> [Accessed: 29.10.24].

<sup>125</sup> The deadline for receipt of applications for the 2024 Historic Structures Fund was 19 January 2024. Calls for the 2025 fund will be announced in mid-November. For details on the 2024 Historic Structures Fund see: <https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/historic-structures-fund-hsf> [Accessed: 29.10.24].

<sup>126</sup> The closing date for the 2025 BHIS was 27 September 2024, funding is typically announced in mid-August. Details on the 2025 funding criteria can be found at: <https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/built-heritage-investment-scheme-bhis-grant> [Accessed: 29.10.24].

<sup>127</sup> The closing date for the 2024 Stitch in Time Grant was 19 January 2024. For further information see: <https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/architectural-heritage-fund-stitch-time-grant> [Accessed: 29.10.24].

physical fabric of the building where these follow best conservation practice of repair, or works that help protect or extend the lifespan of the historic material.

#### **9.2.1.5 Community Heritage Grant Scheme**

The Heritage Council's 'Community Heritage Grant Scheme' funds projects by community groups and not for profit organisations that improve the management and maintenance of heritage collections, objects, buildings and sites.<sup>128</sup> A broad range of project types are eligible for funding, including:

- Workshops and events that promote good heritage practice, in particular, traditional building skills, craft skills, graveyard recording and biodiversity training.
- Development of Digital Heritage Resources, including online exhibitions, digitisation, oral history recordings, podcasts and films.
- Conservation surveys, reports, plans, and audits that will inform the future management of buildings and monuments, habitats, collections, or objects.
- Conservation works to buildings, monuments, habitats, collections, or objects.

Grant schemes are typically announced in January or February of each year with a submission deadline in March. The minimum amount available is €500 up to a maximum of €25,000. Applications should be made via the Heritage Council's Online Grants System.

#### **9.2.1.6 Community Climate Action Fingal**

The 'Community Climate Action Grant' is funded by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) and is administered by FCC Environment, Climate Action and Sports Department. The overall objective of 'Community Climate Action Fingal' is to empower large and small, rural and urban communities, in partnership with Fingal County Council, to develop local low-carbon sustainable communities, in a practical and structured way, which will contribute to the national effort to address carbon emissions.

The 'Community Climate Action Grant' is open to non-profit community groups based in Fingal to fund projects that will reduce emissions.<sup>129</sup> The grant covers five themes: 'Community Energy', 'Community Travel', 'Community Food and Waste', 'Community Local Climate and Environmental Action' and 'Community Shopping and Recycling'. The proposed project ideas include renewable energy solutions, habitat restoration, planting trees and biodiversity areas, and solar panels. Three scales of grants are available from €20,000 up to €100,000, and applications should cover each of the five themes.

---

<sup>128</sup> For further information see: <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/funding/community-heritage-grant-scheme-2> [Accessed: 29.10.24].

<sup>129</sup> For further information see: <https://www.fingal.ie/ClimateAction/community-climate-action-fingal> [Accessed: 29.10.24].

### **9.2.1.7 Community Activities Funding Scheme**

The FCC administered 'Community Activities Funding Scheme' is aimed at community and volunteer groups to develop initiatives that support 'Environmental Enhancement, 'Community, Culture and Development', and 'Community, Culture and Events', as well as other outcomes.<sup>130</sup> Since January 2022, a group may apply for 100% of the total eligible project costs to a maximum of €3,000. Eligible funding costs for environment category include the planning of trees, shrubs, flowers and bulbs, as well as gardening tools.

## **9.2.2 Training Opportunities**

### **9.2.2.1 Adopt a Monument Scheme**

The key objective of the 'Adopt a Monument Scheme', which is funded by the Heritage Council and managed by Abarta Heritage, is to assist communities to become actively involved in the conservation and interpretation of their local archaeological and cultural heritage sites.<sup>131</sup> The Heritage Council and Abarta Heritage provide specialist expertise, mentoring and support through the scheme to ensure ongoing maintenance and greater protection of the 'adopted' monument. The Adopt a Monument Scheme for 2025 has not yet been announced.

### **9.2.2.2 Graveyard Survey**

It is recommended that the Friends of St Doulagh's Church, in partnership with the Heritage Council and/or FCC, undertake an updated survey of the graveyard. Graveyard surveys are typically funded by Local Development Partnerships through LEADER funds and are supported by Heritage Officers and Local Authorities. The Heritage Council also provides grant assistance to community groups for graveyard projects. This should include digital, written, and photographic records and topographic survey, as well as local oral histories – low impact non-invasive methods of recording should be used, such as those outlined in the Heritage Council's *Guidance for the Care, Conservation and Recording of Historic Graveyards* (2011).

The graveyard survey should be developed as a multimedia archive that can be published online, thereby creating an important genealogical and historical resource. For example, Historic Graves<sup>132</sup> in partnership with the Heritage Council, is a community focused grassroots heritage project that curates

---

<sup>130</sup> For further information on the Community Activities Funding Scheme, including categories of funding, eligibility and general criteria, see: <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2022-05/community-funding-scheme-criteria-notes.pdf> [Accessed: 29.10.24].

<sup>131</sup> For further information on the scheme see: <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/projects/aam> [Accessed: 29.10.24].

<sup>132</sup> For further information see: <https://historicgraves.com/> [Accessed: 29.10.24].

survey records and publishes them online. It also provides training to local community groups in low-cost high-tech field survey of historic graveyards and recording of the associated oral histories.

Guidance on the care, conservation, recording and maintenance of historic graveyards is available on the Heritage and Conservation section of the Fingal County Council website,<sup>133</sup> as well as from the NMS<sup>134</sup> and the Heritage Council.<sup>135</sup>

### 9.2.3 Meditation Garden

The Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's would like to develop part of St Doulagh's Field as a meditation garden, which would be a space for contemplation, prayer and meditation for all. A suggestion in keeping with the site's heritage and history, as outlined in the *Ecology Survey and Biodiversity Plan* is to create mown concentric circles within the grassland and install seating around them surrounded by one of each native tree species (Douglas 2024, 9). The trees could be planted in a circle with its corresponding Ogham symbol represented under each tree (*ibid.*, Figure 7).

## 9.3 Implementation

The priority for the future use of St Doulagh's is to consolidate, maintain and protect the site. Foremost in the implementation of any policies of the CMP should be the consideration of St Doulagh's as an active place of worship, a former burial ground, a genealogical resource, a significant archaeological site and an important habitat for protected species.

Any future repairs and/or conservation measures should be conservation-led and be planned and agreed with the necessary stakeholders, with permissions and professional advice obtained in advance where necessary. All works should adhere to the DHLGH published guidance, specifically *The Conservation and Repair of Historic Ruins* (DEHLG 2010), *The Conservation of Places of Worship* (DAHG 2011b), and *A Guide to the Repair of Historic Brickwork* (DEHLG 2009).

Continued liaison and consultation are recommended over the duration of the plan between:

- The Representative Church Body;
- The Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's;

---

<sup>133</sup> Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/historic-graveyards> [Accessed: 29.10.24].

<sup>134</sup> Available at: <https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/care-and-conservation-of-graveyards.pdf> [Accessed: 29.10.24].

<sup>135</sup> Available at: [https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/guidance\\_care\\_conservation\\_recording\\_historic\\_graveyards\\_2011\\_7mb.pdf](https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/guidance_care_conservation_recording_historic_graveyards_2011_7mb.pdf) See also: <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Top-Tips-for-Caring-for-Historic-Graveyards.pdf> [Accessed: 29.10.24].

- The Friends of St Doulagh's Church;
- The local community;
- Resurrecting Monuments;
- Fingal County Council;
- Fingal County Council Heritage Officer;
- Fingal County Council Architectural Conservation Officer;
- Fingal County Council Biodiversity Officer;
- Fingal County Council Community Climate Action Officer;
- Fingal County Council Operations Department;
- The National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage;
- The National Built Heritage Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage;
- The National Museum of Ireland;
- The Heritage Council;
- Archaeological Management Solutions;
- Southgate Associates;
- Goodwin-Arborist; and,
- Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants.

The implementation of the policies put forward in this plan should take place in compliance with legal requirements under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014, the Heritage Act 2018, the Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2021, the Planning and Development Act 2000 and other applicable legislation.

## **9.4 Duration of Plan**

It is recommended that a ten-year timeframe for the CMP period (2025–2035) is considered, with a mid-period review after 30 months. The review structure and responsibility for undertaking same will need to be agreed between the key stakeholders as part of the next steps in due course.

## References

- Anon. 1914. 'North County Dublin.' *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, Vol. 44, pp.250–68.
- Archer, J. 1801. *Statistical Survey of the County Dublin*. Dublin: Graisberry & Campbell.
- Archivum Hibernicum. 1913. 'Obligationes pro Annatis Diocesis Dublinensis, 1421–1520'. *Archivum Hibernicum*, Vol. 2. pp.1–72.
- Baker, C. 2019a. *Fingal Community Archaeology Strategy 2019–2023*. Available at: <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/consultation/draft-fingal-community-archaeology-strategy-2019-2023> [Accessed: 17.07.24].
- Baker, C. 2019b. 'Digging Drumanagh.' *Archaeology Ireland*, Vol. 33, No. 1, pp.26–29.
- Bat Conservation Ireland 2010. *Bats & Lighting. Guidance Notes for: Planners, engineers, architects and developers*. Available at: [https://www.batconservationireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/BCIrelandGuidelines\\_Lighting.pdf](https://www.batconservationireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/BCIrelandGuidelines_Lighting.pdf) [Accessed: 17.07.24].
- Bayliss, A. & Woodman, P.C. 2009. 'A new Bayesian chronology for Mesolithic occupation at Mount Sandel, Northern Ireland'. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 75, pp.101–23.
- Bhreathnach, E. 2004. 'Medieval Sub-Kingdoms of Brega: The Kingships of Calatruim, Dessi Breg, Mugdornae Breg and Ui Maic Uais Breg.' In A. MacShamhráin (ed.), *The Island of St Patrick: Church and Ruling Dynasties in Fingal and Meath, 400–1148*, pp.38–51. Dublin: Four Courts Press.
- Board of the First Fruits 1815. *Accounts of the Trustees from the Board of the First Fruits Fund in Ireland, 1814*. London: British Parliamentary Publications.
- Bolton, J. 2008. *Discovering Historic Fingal: A Guide to the Study of Monuments, Historic Buildings and Landscapes*. Swords: Fingal County Council. Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2019-04/Discovering%20Historic%20Fingal-resource%20Guide.pdf> [Accessed: 16.10.24].
- Bowen, B. 1963. 'South-East Fingal.' *Dublin Historical Record*, Vol. 18, No. 3, pp.66–79.
- Bradley, J. 1988. 'The Interpretation of Scandinavian Settlement in Ireland. In J. Bradley (ed.), *Settlement and Society in Medieval Ireland: Studies Presented to F.X. Martin*, pp.49–78. Kilkenny: Boethius Press.
- Bradley, J. 2009. 'Some reflections on the problem of Scandinavian settlement in the hinterland of Dublin during the ninth century'. In J. Bradley, A. Fletcher & A. Simms (eds.), *Dublin in the Medieval World: studies in honour of Howard B. Clarke*, pp.39–62. Dublin: Four Courts Press.
- Byrne, F.J. 1987. *Irish Kings and High Kings*. London: Batsford.
- Chapple, R.M., McLaughlin, R. & Warren, G. 2022. '...where they pass their unenterprising existence...'. Change over time in the Mesolithic of Ireland as shown in radiocarbon-dated activity.' *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, Vol. 122C, pp.1–38.
- Cooney, G. 2000. *Landscapes of Neolithic Ireland*. Abingdon: Routledge.
- Cooney, G. 2009. 'The Prehistory of Lambay, a Long View.' In C. Baker (ed.), *Axes, Warriors and Windmills: Recent Archaeological Discoveries in North Fingal*, pp.9–22. Dublin: Fingal County Council.

Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht [DAHG] 2011a. *Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities*. Available at:  
<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Architectural-Heritage-Protection-Guidelines-for-Planning-Authorities-2011.pdf> [Accessed: 27.08.24].

DAHG 2011b. *Places of Worship: The Conservation of Places of Worship*. Available at:  
<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Places-of-Worship-The-Conservation-of-Places-of-Worship-2011.pdf> [Accessed: 17.07.24].

Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands [DAHGI] 1999. *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*. Available at:  
<https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/framework-and-principles-for-protection-of-archaeological-heritage.pdf> [Accessed: 16.07.24].

D'Alton, J. 1838. *The History of the County of Dublin*. Dublin: Hodges & Smith.

Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht [DCHG] 2019. *Built & Archaeological Heritage: Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan*. Available at:  
<https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/75639/a0ad0e1d-339c-4e11-bc48-07b4f082b58f.pdf#page=null> [Accessed: 16.07.24].

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government [DEHLG] 2009. *Bricks: A Guide to the Repair of Historic Brickwork*. Available at:  
<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Bricks-A-Guide-to-the-Repair-of-Historic-Brickwork-2009.pdf> [Accessed: 17.07.24].

DEHLG 2010a. *Roofs: The Conservation and Repair of Historic Roofs*. Available at:  
<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Roofs-A-Guide-to-the-Repair-of-Historic-Roofs-2010.pdf> [Accessed: 15.10.24].

DEHLG 2010b. *Ruins: The Conservation and Repair of Masonry Ruins*. Available at:  
<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Ruins-The-Conservation-and-Repair-of-Masonry-Ruins-2010.pdf> [Accessed: 17.07.24].

DHLGH 2021. *A Living Tradition: A Strategy to Enhance the Understanding, Minding and Handing on of Our Built Vernacular Heritage*. Available at:  
<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2021/12/A-Living-Tradition.pdf> [Accessed: 27.08.24].

DHLGH 2022a. *Places for People: National Policy on Architecture*. Available at:  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/f9879-places-for-people-national-policy-on-architecture/> [Accessed: 27.08.24].

DHLGH 2022b. *Heritage Ireland 2030: A Framework for Heritage*. Available at:  
<https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/216633/d5e7370d-ee0e-41a8-81b5-9bc46bc75e17.pdf#page=null> [Accessed: 27.08.24].

DHLGH 2024. *National Inventory of Architectural Heritage Handbook*. Available at:  
<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2024/05/NIAH-Handbook-Edition-May-2024.pdf> [Accessed: 18.09.24].

DHLGH/OPR 2021. *Archaeology in the Planning Process*. Available at:  
<https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/archaeology-planning-process-pl13.pdf> [Accessed: 26.08.24].

Douglas, I. Ecology Survey and Biodiversity Plan: St Doulagh's Church, Kinsealy, Dublin. Unpublished report prepared by Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants on behalf of the Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's.



- Duffy, P. 2015. Preliminary Report on the Archaeological Excavation at St Doolagh's Church 2015 (Licence 15E0329). Unpublished report prepared by Resurrecting Monuments and Grassroots Archaeology.
- Duffy, P. 2016. 'Resurrecting Monuments.' *Archaeology Ireland*, Vol. 30, No. 1, pp.11–14.
- Duffy, P. 2019. 'Knots and Crosses – the Irish Cult of St Olave.' *Archaeology Ireland*, Vol. 33, No. 3, pp.25–29.
- Dwyer, N. 2012. *The Status of Ireland's Climate*. Johnstown: Environmental Protection Agency.
- Edden, L. 2018. Appraisal of water ingress issues through structural masonry. St Doulagh's Church, Malahide, Co. Dublin. Unpublished report prepared by CORA for the Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's.
- Edwards, N. 1996. *The Archaeology of Early Medieval Ireland*. London Routledge.
- Egan, M.E. 1992. *Memorials of the Dead: Dublin City and County*. Vol. 5. Dublin: Typescript.
- EPA 2015. *Advice Notes for Preparing Environmental Impact Statements DRAFT September 2015*. Dublin: Environmental Protection Agency.
- EPA 2022. *Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports*. Available at: [https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/EIAR\\_Guidelines\\_2022\\_Web.pdf](https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/EIAR_Guidelines_2022_Web.pdf) [Accessed: 27.08.24].
- FCC 2008. *Fingal Historic Graveyards Project*, Vols. 1 & 2. Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/historic-graveyards> [Accessed: 27.08.24].
- FCC 2019. Fingal County Council Climate Change Action Plan 2019–2024. Available at: [https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2019-08/20190812\\_fcc\\_climate\\_change\\_action\\_plan\\_final\\_0.pdf](https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2019-08/20190812_fcc_climate_change_action_plan_final_0.pdf) [Accessed: 12.11.24].
- FCC 2021a. *Fingal Cultural Heritage & Climate Change Risk Assessment Report*. Available at: [https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2021-07/fingal-cultural-heritage-risk-assessment-report\\_1.pdf](https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2021-07/fingal-cultural-heritage-risk-assessment-report_1.pdf) [Accessed: 16.07.24].
- FCC 2021b. *Heritage Signage & Heritage Trail Guidance*. Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2021-06/a4-fcc-heritiage-signage-booklet-eng-web.pdf> [Accessed: 17.07.24].
- FCC 2023a. *Fingal Development Plan 2023–2029*. Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/development-plan-2023-2029> [Accessed: 27.08.24].
- FCC 2023b. *Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2023–2030*. Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2023-12/Fingal%20Biodiversity%20Action%20Plan%202023-2030.pdf> [Accessed: 28.08.24].
- FCC 2023c. *Fingal County Council Local Economic & Community Plan 2023–2028*. Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/fcc-lecp-2023-2028.pdf> [Accessed: 27.08.24].
- FCC 2024a. *Fingal Heritage Plan 2024–2030*. Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/fingal-heritage-plan-2024-2030.pdf> [Accessed: 27.08.24].
- FCC 2024b. *Fingal Tourism Strategy 2024–2029*. Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/final-fingal-tourism-strategy-mar24.pdf> [Accessed: 27.08.24].



- FCC 2024c. Fingal County Council Climate Action Plan 2024–2029. Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/fingal-county-council-climate-action-plan-2024-2029.pdf> [Accessed: 12.11.24].
- Flanagan, N. 1984. *Malahide Past and Present*. Dublin: Noel Flanagan.
- Foster, R.F. 1988. *Modern Ireland 1600–1972*. London: Allen Lane.
- Gilbert, J.T. 1897. *Crede Mihi: The Most Ancient Register Book of the Archbishops of Dublin Before the Reformation*. Joseph Dollard: Dublin.
- Goodwin, R. 2024. Arboricultural Report. Assessment of Trees: St Doulagh's Church, Malahide Road, Co. Dublin. Unpublished report prepared by Goodwin Arborist for the Friends of St Doulagh's Church and the Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's.
- Hannah, E., Carlin, N., Griffiths, S., Gaydarska, B., Swan, R. & Corns, A. 2022. 'Project Radiocarbon.' *Archaeology Ireland*, Vol. 36, No. 3, pp.14–17.
- Harbison, P. 1982. 'St Doulagh's Church.' *Studies: An Irish Quarterly Review*, Vol. 71, No. 281, pp.27–42.
- Hartnett, P.J. & Eogan, G. 1964. 'Feltrim Hill, Co. Dublin: A Neolithic and Early Christian Site.' *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, Vol. 94, No. 1, pp.1–37.
- Heritage Council 2011. *Guidance for the Care, Conservation and Recording of Historic Graveyards*. Available at: [https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/guidance\\_care\\_conservation\\_recording\\_historic\\_graveyards\\_2011\\_7mb.pdf](https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/guidance_care_conservation_recording_historic_graveyards_2011_7mb.pdf) [Accessed: 27.08.24].
- Heritage Council 2015. *Bored of boards! Ideas for interpreting heritage sites*. Available at: [https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/bored\\_of\\_boards\\_1mb.pdf](https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/bored_of_boards_1mb.pdf) [Accessed: 27.08.24].
- Heritage Council 2023. *Our Place in Time: Heritage Council Strategic Plan 2023–2029*. Available at: <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Strategic-Plan-2023-2028.pdf> [Accessed: 26.08.24].
- Holland, M. 2004. 'The Twelfth-Century Reform and Inis Patraic.' In A. MacShamhráin (ed.), *The Island of St Patrick: Church and Ruling Dynasties in Fingal and Meath, 400–1148*, pp.159–78. Dublin: Four Courts Press.
- Hudson, B.T. 2005. *Viking Pirates and Christian Princes: Dynasty, Religion and Empire in the North Atlantic*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Jefferies, H.A. 1988. 'The Irish Parliament of 1560: The Anglican Reforms Authorised.' *Irish Historical Studies*, Vol. 26, No. 102, pp.128–41.
- Joyce, W. St. J. 1921. *The Neighbourhood of Dublin*. Dublin: M.H. Gill & Son.
- Lawlor, Rev. H.J. 1912/1913. 'A Calendar of the Register of Archbishop Fleming.' *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, Vol. 30, pp.94–190.
- Leask, H.G. 1955. *Irish Churches and Monastic Buildings. Vol. I. The First Phases of the Romanesque*. Dundalk: Dundalgan Press.
- Ledwich, E. 1804. *Antiquities of Ireland* (Second Edition). Dublin: John Jones.
- Leslie, J.B. 1940. *Clergy of Dublin and Glendalough*. Dublin: Representative Church Body.
- Lewis, S. 1837. *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland. Vol. I*. London: Lewis & Co.
- Lynch, A. 2014. *Poulnabrone: An Early Neolithic Portal Tomb in Ireland*. Dublin: DAHG, Archaeological Monograph Series 9.

- McAllister, K. 2008. St Doulagh's Church – A Chronology. Unpublished BA dissertation, University College Dublin.
- McAllister, K. 2020. St Doulagh's Church: 2020 Conservation Plan. Unpublished report prepared by the Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's and the Friends of St Doulagh's Church.
- Mitchell, G.F. 1956. 'An Early Kitchen-Midden at Sutton, Co. Dublin (Studies in Irish Quaternary Deposits: No. 12).' *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, Vol. 86, No. 1, pp.1–26.
- Mitchell, G.F. 1972. 'Further Excavation of the Early Kitchen-Midden at Sutton, Co. Dublin.' *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, Vol. 102, No. 2, pp.151–59.
- McLoughlin, G. 2020. Final Archaeological Excavation Report, Station Road, Portmarnock (Licence 18E0016). Unpublished report prepared by Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy.
- McQuade, M. 2011. Archaeological Test Excavation, Monitoring and Preliminary Excavation Results: Portrairie, Donabate and Lusk Waste Water Treatment Scheme (Licence 10E0121). Unpublished report prepared by Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd.
- McNeill, C. 1950. *Calendar of Archbishop Alen's Register, c. 1172–1534*. Dublin: Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.
- Mills, J. 1890. 'Tenants and agriculture near Dublin in the fourteenth century.' *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, Vol. 1, No. 1, pp.54–63.
- Moss, R. 2003. 'St Doulagh's Church.' *Irish Arts Review*, Vol. 20, No. 2, pp.122–25.
- Murphy, M. & Potterton, M. 2010. *The Dublin Region in the Middle Ages: settlement, land-use and economy*. Dublin: Four Courts Press.
- Murray, J. 1991–92. 'The sources of clerical income in the Tudor diocese of Dublin, c.1530–1600'. *Archivum Hibernicum*, Vol. 46, pp.139–60.
- Nicholls, J. 2010. Geophysical Survey Report (RMP DU015-009001 – 006). St. Doulagh's Church & Graveyard, St. Doolagh's Townland, County Dublin (Consent 09R165). Unpublished report prepared by TARGET Archaeological Geophysics for the Friends of St Doulagh's.
- Nicholls, K.W. 1973. 'Medieval Irish cathedral chapters', *Archivum Hibernicum*, Vol. 31. pp.102–11.
- Ní Mhurchadha, M. 2005. *Fingal, 1603–60: Contending Neighbours in North Dublin*. Dublin: Four Courts Press.
- NPWS 2023. *Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Plan 2023–2030*. Available at: [https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/files/4th\\_National\\_Biodiversity\\_Action\\_Plan.pdf](https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/files/4th_National_Biodiversity_Action_Plan.pdf) [Accessed: 22.10.24].
- Nugent, L. 2020. *Journeys of Faith: Stories of Pilgrimage from Medieval Ireland*. Galway: Columba Books
- Ó Carragáin, T. 2005. 'Habitual Masonry Styles and the Local Organisation of Church Building in Early Medieval Ireland.' *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, Vol. 105C, No.3, pp.99–149.
- Ó Carragáin, T. 2010. *Churches in Medieval Ireland: Architecture, Ritual and Memory*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Ó Danachair, C. 1958. 'The Holy Wells of County Dublin.' *Reportorium Novum*, Vol. 2, pp.68–87.
- O'Donovan, J. 1856. *The Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland by the Four Masters, From the Earliest Period to the Year 1616*. Dublin: John, Hodges, Smith & Co.

- O'Donovan, J., Todd, J.H. & Reeves, W. 1864. *The Martyrology of Donegal: A Calendar of the Saints of Ireland*. Dublin: Alexander Thom.
- OPW 1995. *The Care and Conservation of Graveyards*. Available at: <https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/care-and-conservation-of-graveyards.pdf> [Accessed: 04.08.24].
- Ó Riain, P. 2011. *A Dictionary of Irish Saints*. Dublin: Four Courts Press.
- Orschel, V. 2014/15. 'Uniting the Dispersed Members: The *Annual Letters* of the Irish Jesuits.' *Studies: An Irish Quarterly Review*, Vol. 103, No. 412, pp.402–13.
- O'Sullivan, A., McCormick, F., Kerr, T.R. & Harney, L. 2013. *Early Medieval Ireland AD 400-1100. The Evidence from Archaeological Excavations*. Dublin: Royal Irish Academy.
- Otway-Ruthven 1961. 'The Mediaeval Church Lands of Co. Dublin'. In J.A. Watt, J.B. Morrall & F.X. Martin (eds.), *Medieval Studies Presented to Aubrey Gwynn, S.J.*, pp.54–73. Dublin: Three Candles.
- Pender, S. 1939. *A Census of Ireland, circa 1659*. Dublin: The Stationery Office.
- Phair, P.B. 1978. 'Seventeenth Century Regal Visitations.' *Analecta Hibernica*, No. 28, pp.81–102.
- Reeves, W. 1857–1861. 'Memoir of the Church of St. Duilech.' *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, Vol. 7, pp.141–47.
- Price, L. 1942. *An Eighteenth-Century Antiquary: The Sketches, Notes and Diaries of Austin Cooper, 1759–1880*. Dublin: Falconer.
- Refaussé, R. & Clark, M. *A Catalogue of the Estates of the Archbishops of Dublin, 1654–1850*. Dublin: Four Courts Press.
- Rich, B. 1610. *A New Description of Ireland*. London: Thomas Adams.
- Roche, L. 2024. Thermal Imaging Survey: The Baptistry, St Doulagh's, County Dublin. Unpublished report prepared by Archaeological Management Solutions for the Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's, and the Friends of St Doulagh's Church.
- Ronan, M.V. 1930. 'Union of the dioceses of Glendaloch and Dublin in 1216'. *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, Vol. 20, No. 1, pp.56–72.
- Ronan, M.V. 1941a. 'Royal visitation of Dublin, 1615'. *Archivium Hibernicum*, Vol. 8, pp.1–55.
- Ronan, M.V. 1941b. 'Archbishop Bulkeley's visitation of Dublin, 1630'. *Archivium Hibernicum*, Vol. 8, pp.56–98.
- Ryan, J. 2017. Archaeological Monitoring at Balgriffin, Co. Dublin (Licence 17E0378). Unpublished report prepared by Archaeology Plan.
- Scallly, G. 2002. Archaeological Assessment. North Fringe Sewer. St. Doolagh's Church, Malahide Road, Dublin 13 (Licence 99E0470). Unpublished report prepared by Margaret Gowen & Co.
- Schulting, R.J., Murphy, E., Jones, C. & Warren, G. 2012. 'New dates from the north and a proposed chronology for Irish Court Tombs'. *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 112C, pp.1–60.
- Sheehy, M.P. 1962. *Pontificia Hibernica: Medieval Papal Chancery Documents Concerning Ireland, 640–1261*, Vol. I. M.H. Gill & Sons: Dublin.
- Simington, R.C. 1945. *The Civil Survey, AD 1654–1656. Vol. VII: County of Dublin*. Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission.

- Simms, A. & Fagan, P. 1992. 'Villages in County Dublin: their origins and inheritance'. In F.H.A. Aalen & K. Whelan (eds), *Dublin City and County: from prehistory to present*, pp.79–120. Dublin: Geography Publications.
- Smyth, W.J. 1992. 'Exploring the social and cultural topographies of sixteenth- and seventeenth century County Dublin. In F.H.A. Aalen & K. Whelan (eds), *Dublin City and County: from prehistory to present*, pp.121–79. Dublin: Geography Publications.
- Saint Doulagh's Heritage Project 1990. *St. Doulagh's Church in the Diocese of Dublin*. Dublin.
- Sloan, J. 1879. 'Antiquities of Fingal, No. 1, St Doulough's.' *The Irish Builder*, Vol. 21, pp.290–300.
- Southgate, C., O'Flynn, C. & Marandola, S. 2024. Condition Survey: St Doulagh's Ecclesiastical Site, Saintdoolaghs, County Dublin. Unpublished report prepared by Southgate Associates and Archaeological Management Solutions for the Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's, and the Friends of St Doulagh's Church.
- Stokes, G.T. 1897. 'Calendar of the "Liber Niger Alani". *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, Vol. 7, No. 4, pp.404–422.
- Stokes, W. 1895. *Féire huí Gormáin: The Martyrology of Gorman, from a manuscript in the Royal Library Brussels*. London: Harrison & Sons.
- Stokes, W. 1905. *Féire Óengusso Céli Dé: The Martyrology of Oengus the Culdee*. London: Harrison & Sons.
- Stout, G. & Stout, M. 1992. 'Patterns in the past: County Dublin 5000BC–1000AD'. In F.H.A. Aalen & K. Whelan (eds), *Dublin City and County: from prehistory to present*, pp.5–42. Dublin: Geography Publications.
- Stout, M. 1997. *The Irish Ringfort*. Dublin. Four Courts Press.
- Stubbs, W.C. 1897. 'Excursions in County Dublin. Descriptive sketch of places visited.' *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, Vol. 7, No. 4, pp.446–460.
- Swan, D.L. 1989. St. Doulagh's Church, Balgriffin, Dublin. Conservation and Restoration Project. Interim Report on the Archaeological Excavations, September to December 1989 (Licence E00508). Unpublished report prepared by D.L. Swan.
- Swan, D.L. 1990. 'St. Doulagh's, Balgriffin.' In I. Bennett (ed.), *Excavations 1989: Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland*, pp.18–19. Bray: Wordwell.
- Swan, D.L. 1991. 'Church of St. John the Evangelist, Coolock.' In I. Bennett (ed.), *Excavations 1990: Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland*, pp.24–25. Bray: Wordwell.
- Waddell, J. 2000. *The Prehistoric Archaeology of Ireland*. Bray: Wordwell.
- Walsh, Rev. R. 1888. *Fingal and its Churches*. Dublin: William McGee.
- Whittle, A., Healy, F. & Bayliss, A. 2011. *Gathering Time: dating the Early Neolithic enclosures of southern Britain and Ireland*. Oxford: Oxbow Books.
- Woodman, P.C. 2011. 'Making yourself at home on an island: the first 1000 years (+?) of the Irish Mesolithic'. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, No. 78, pp.1–34.

## Cartographic Sources

First-Edition Six-Inch Ordnance Survey Map (survey date 1836, publication date 1843).

First-Edition 25-Inch Ordnance Survey Map (survey date 1906, publication date 1909).

## Figures

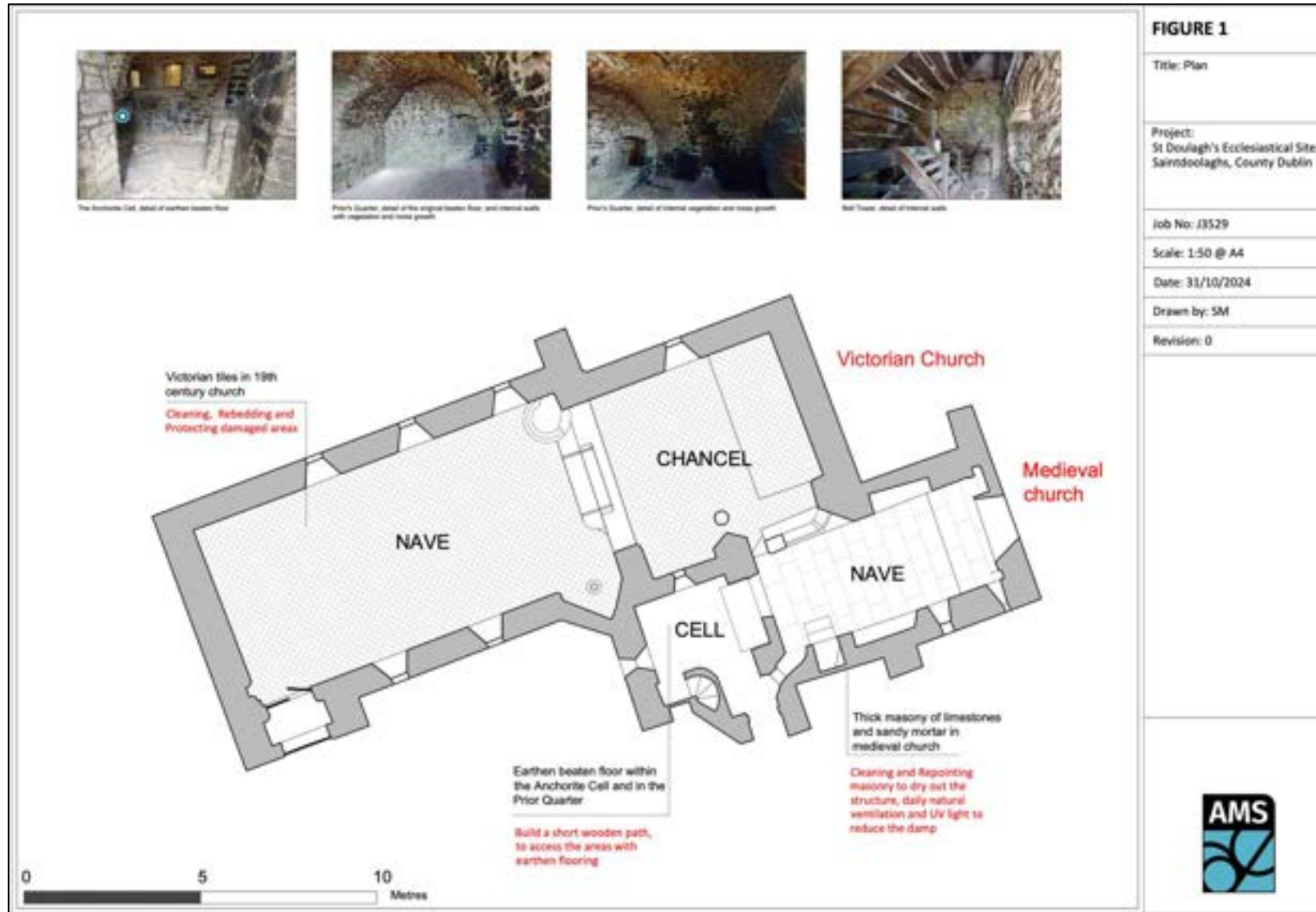


Figure 1: Ground plan of St Doulagh's Church.



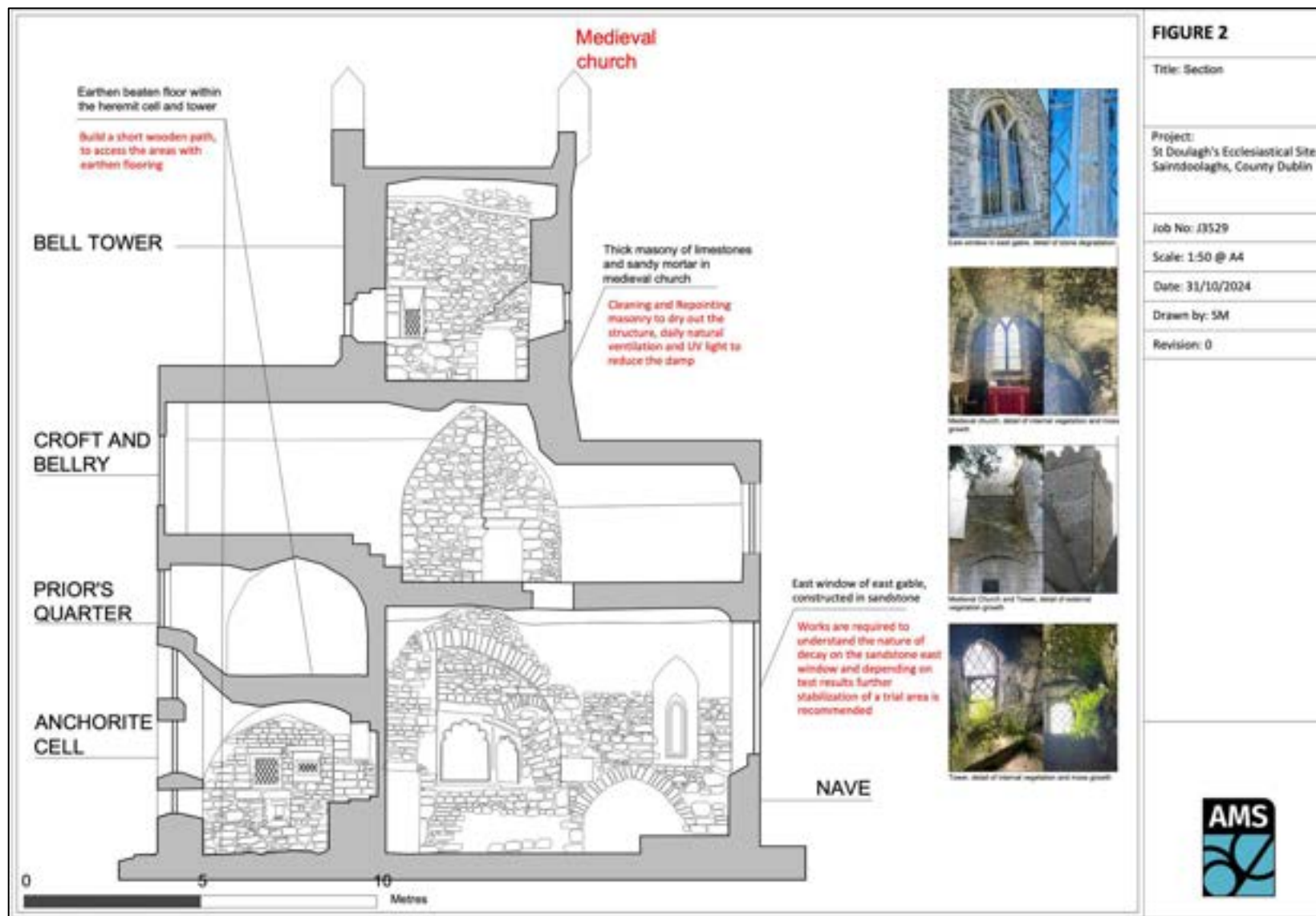


Figure 2: South-facing section through St Doulagh's Church.

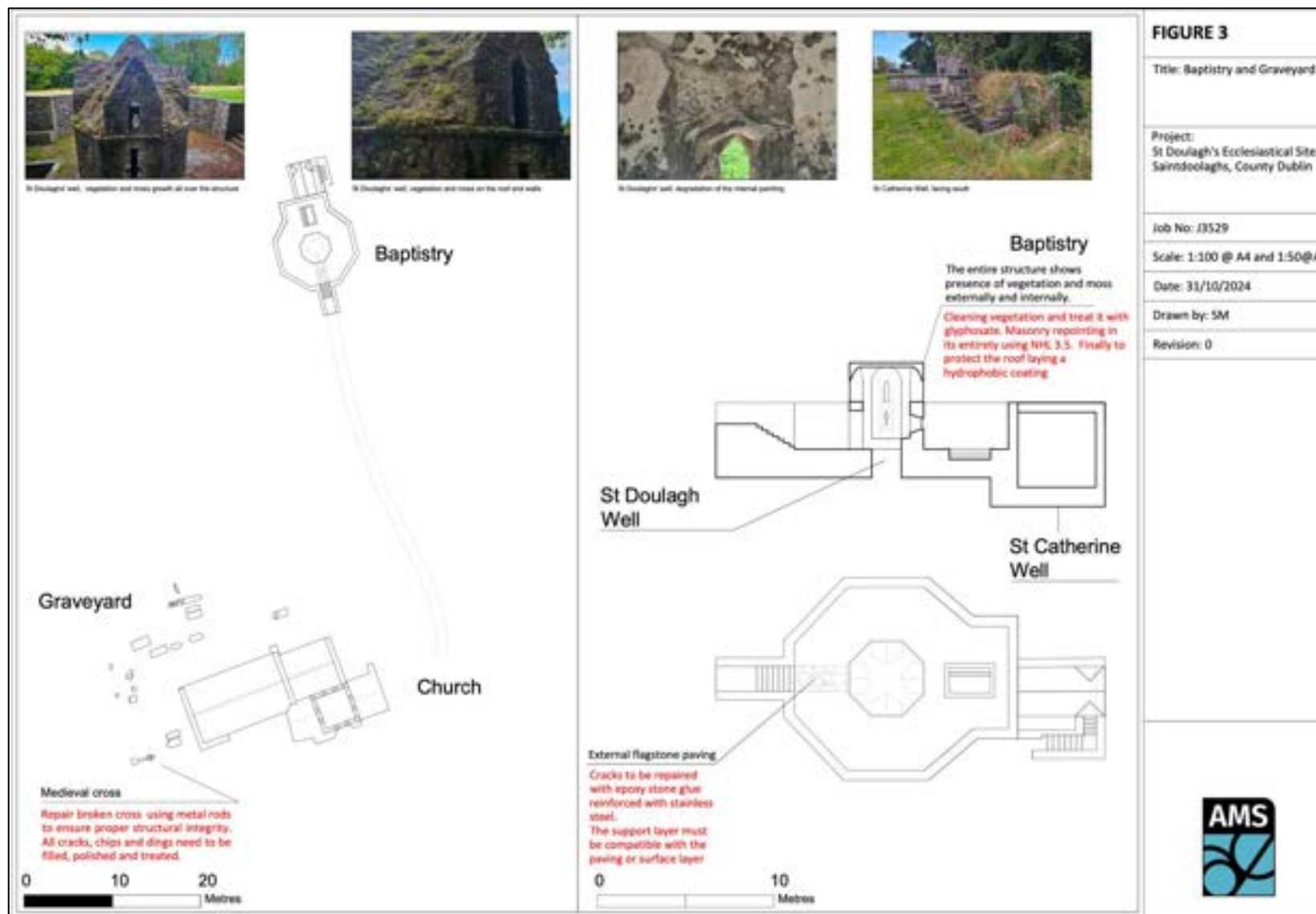


Figure 3: Ground plans of the graveyard, Baptistry and St Catherine's Well.



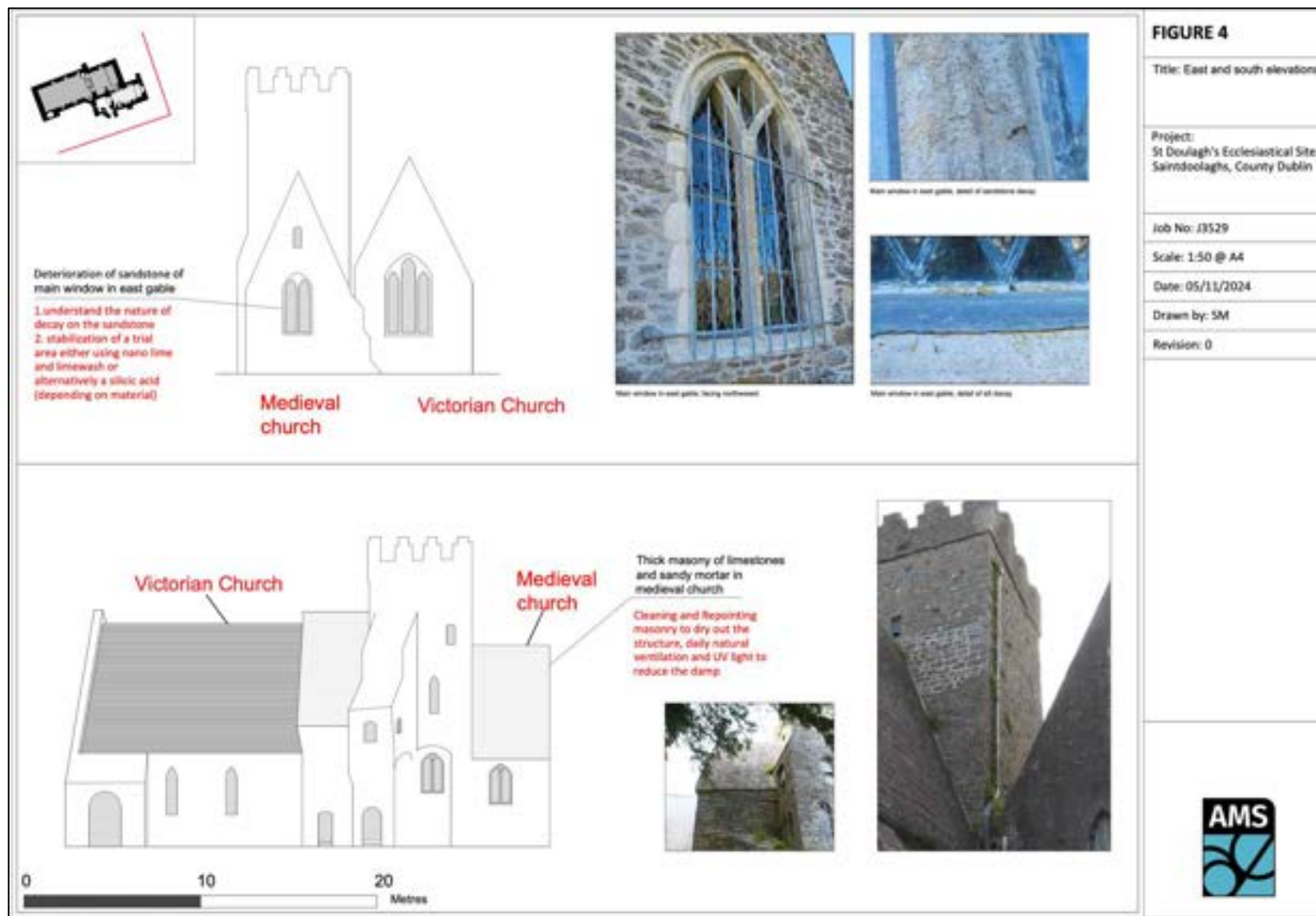


Figure 4: East and south elevations of St Doulagh's Church.

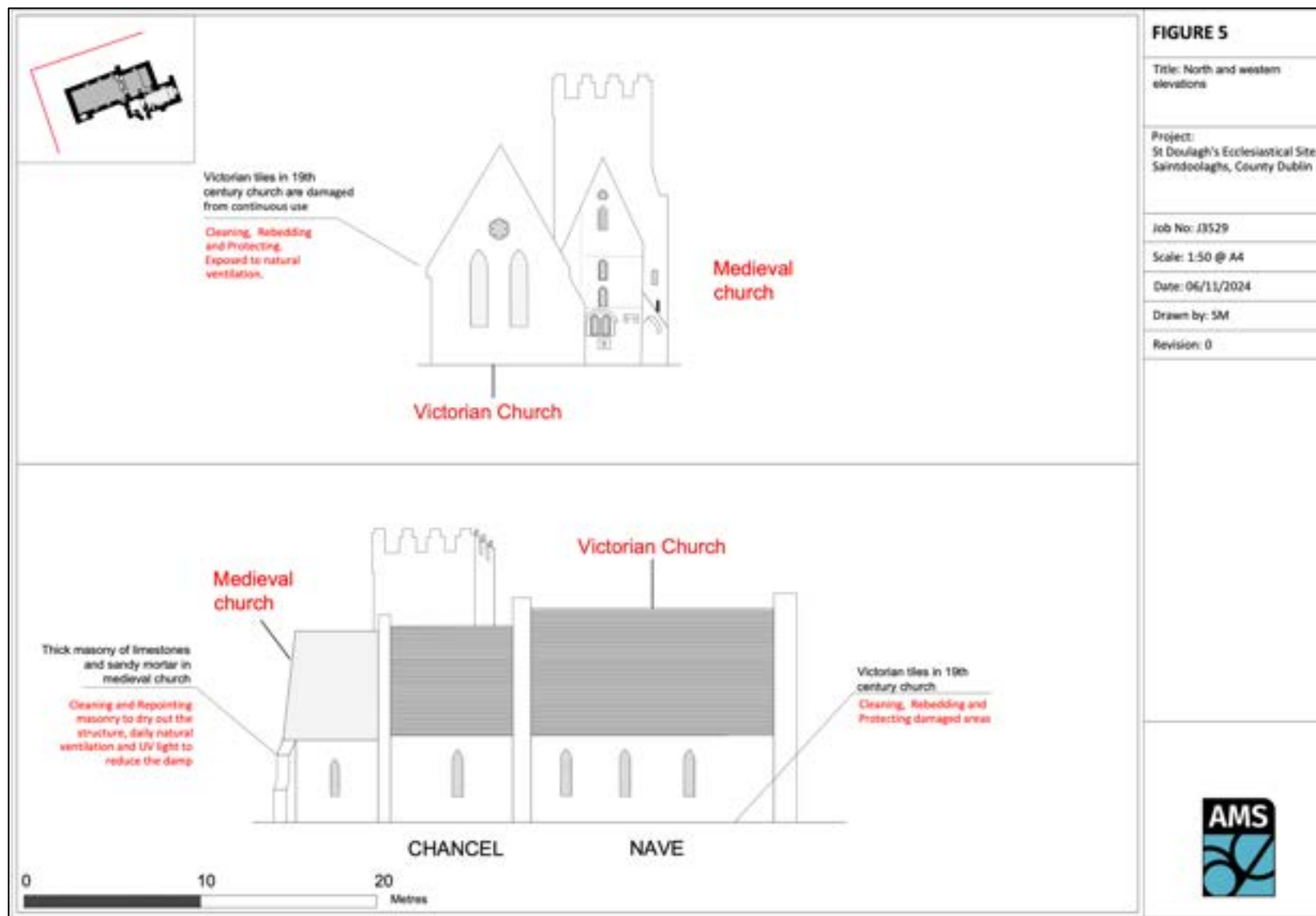


Figure 5: North and west elevations of St Doulagh's Church.

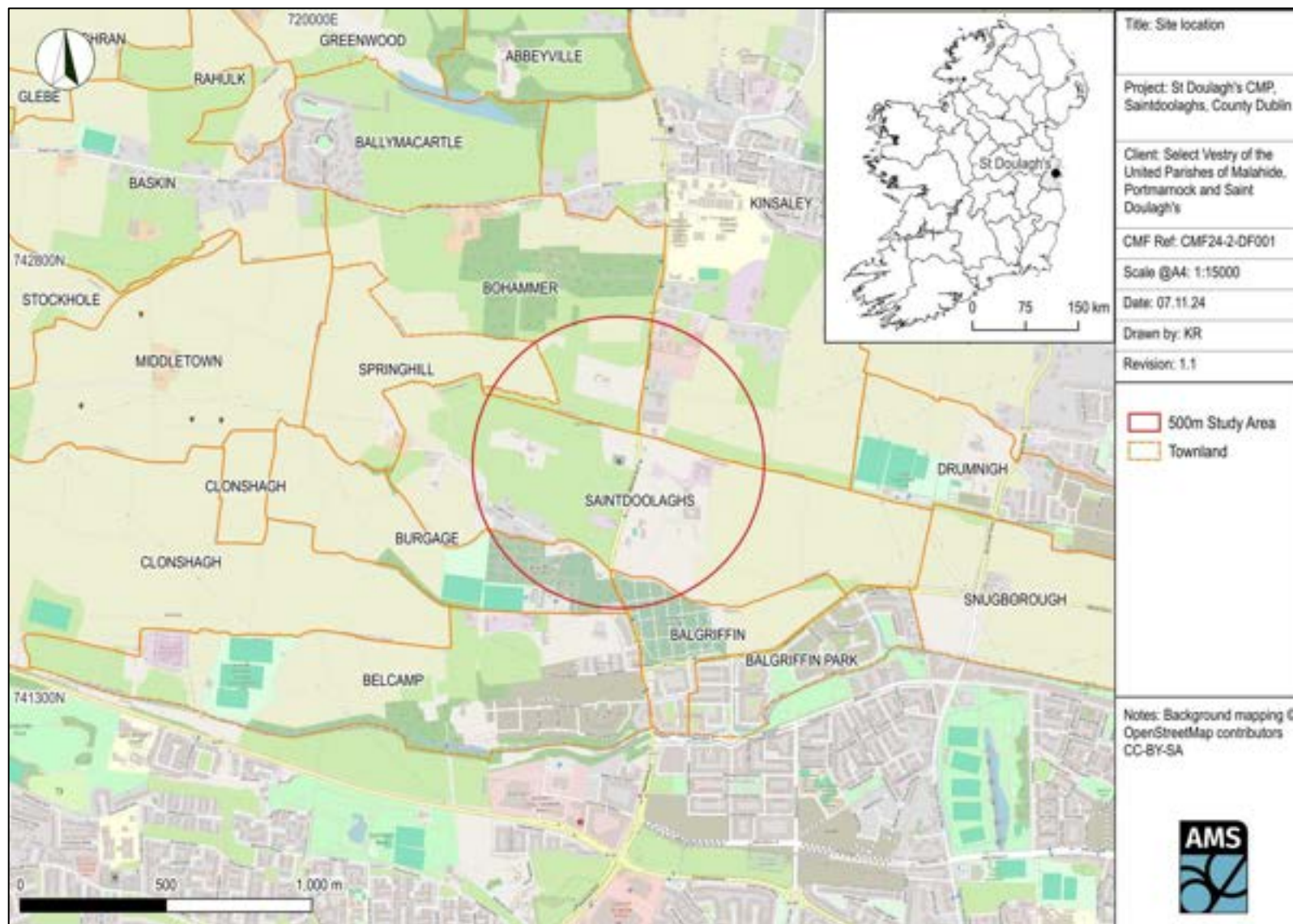


Figure 6: Location map.





Figure 7: Aerial overview of study area with Saintdoolaghs and the surrounding townlands.

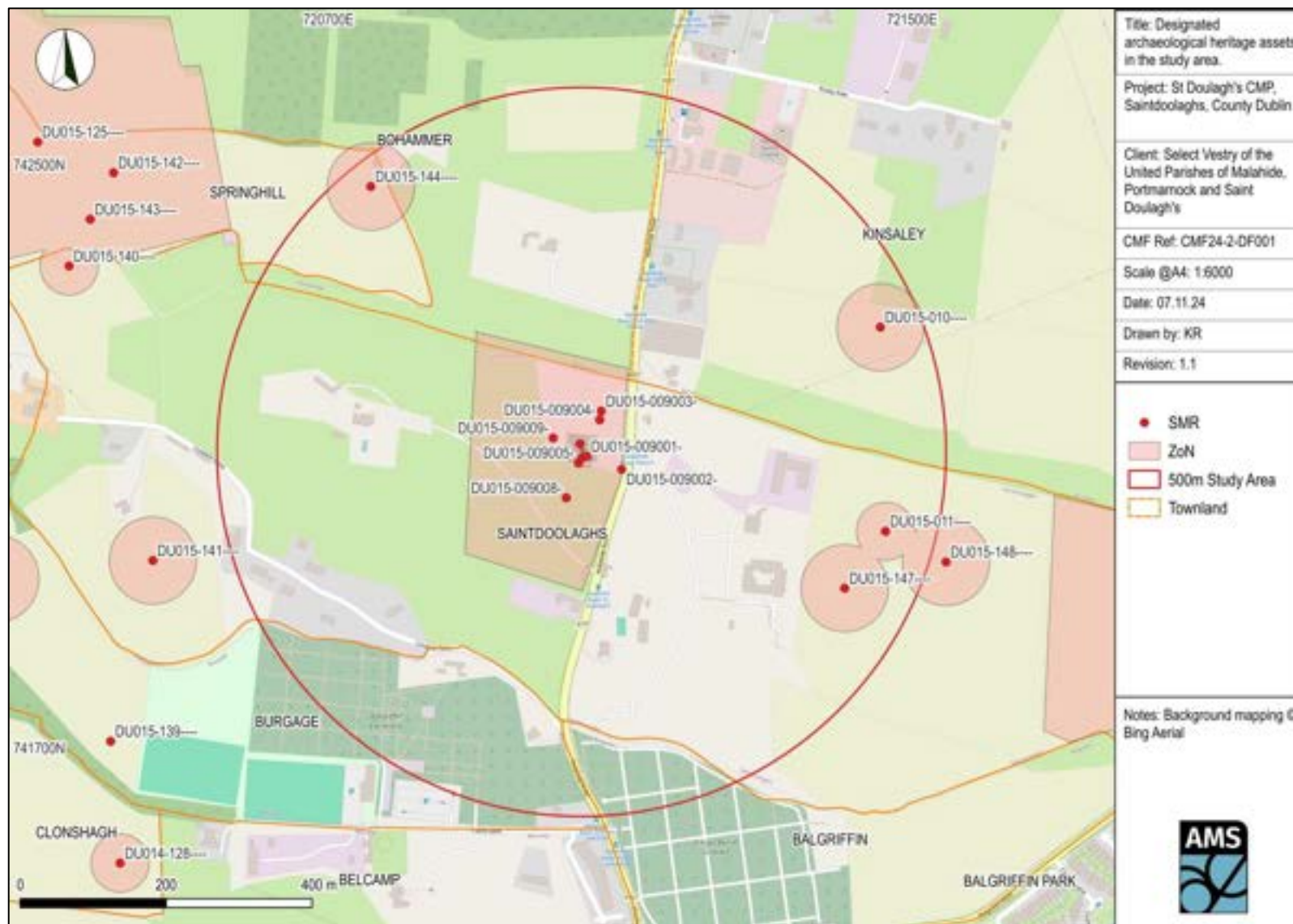


Figure 8: Archaeological heritage assets in the study area.



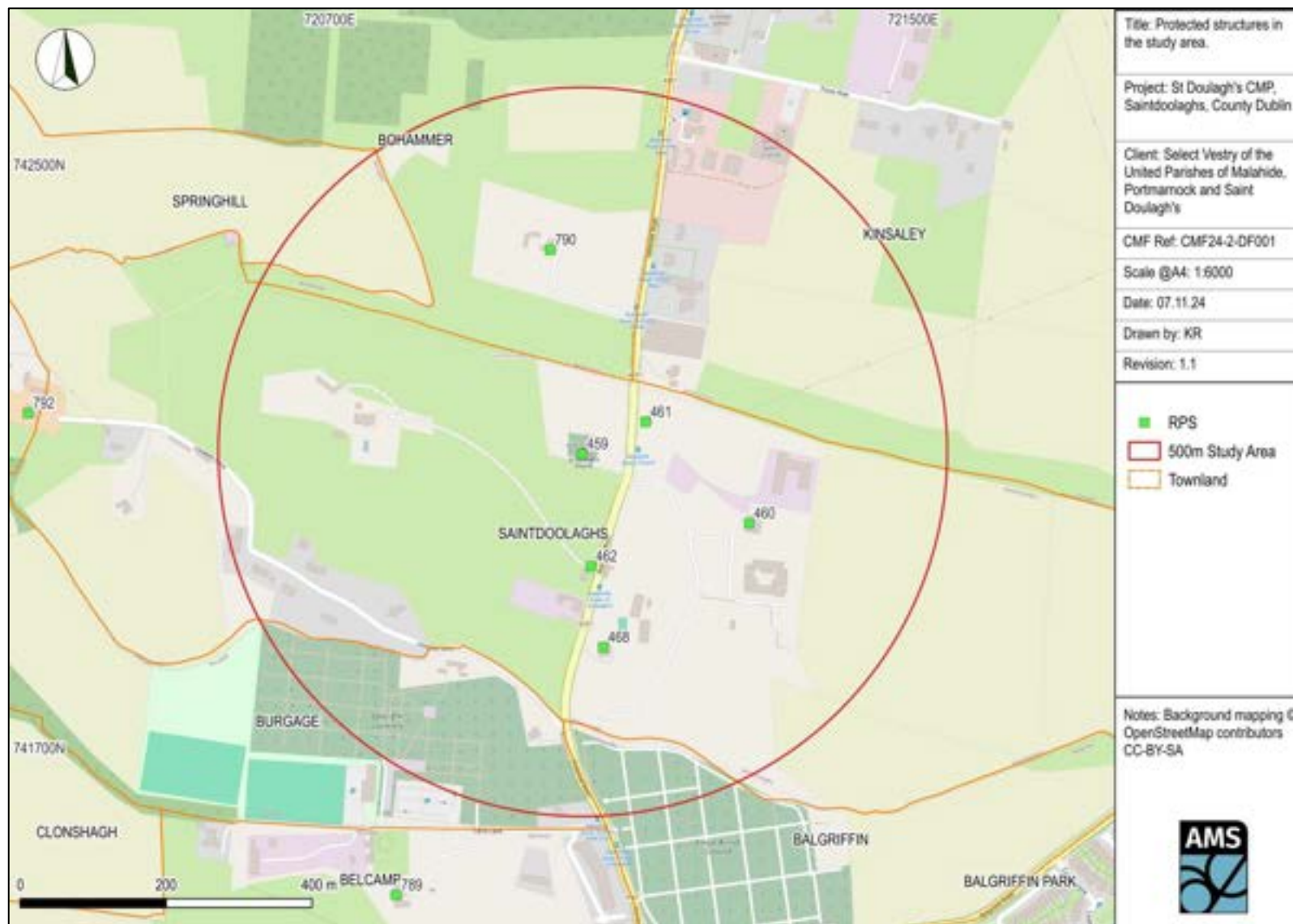


Figure 9: Protected Structures in the study area.

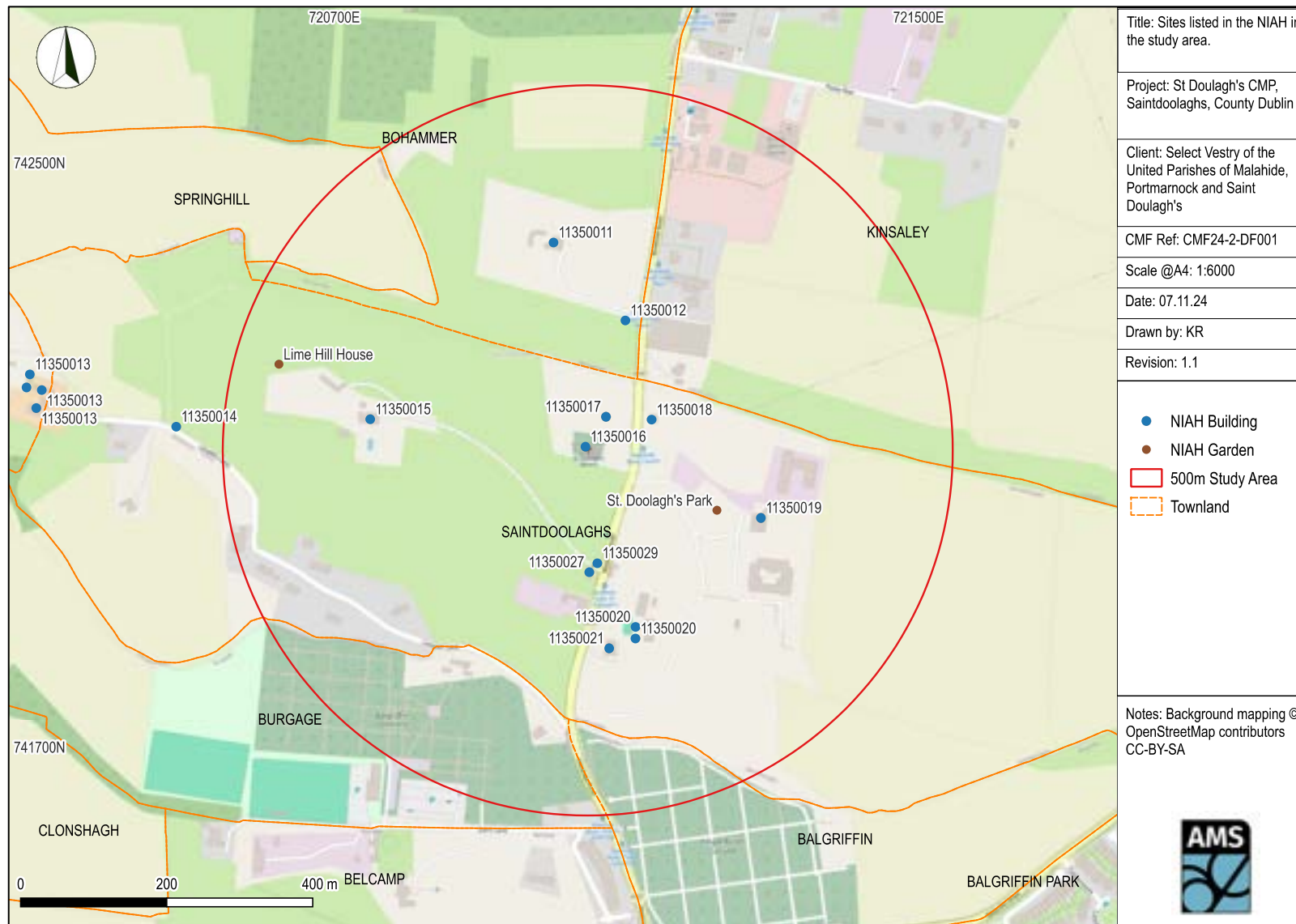


Figure 10: NIAH sites in the wider study area.

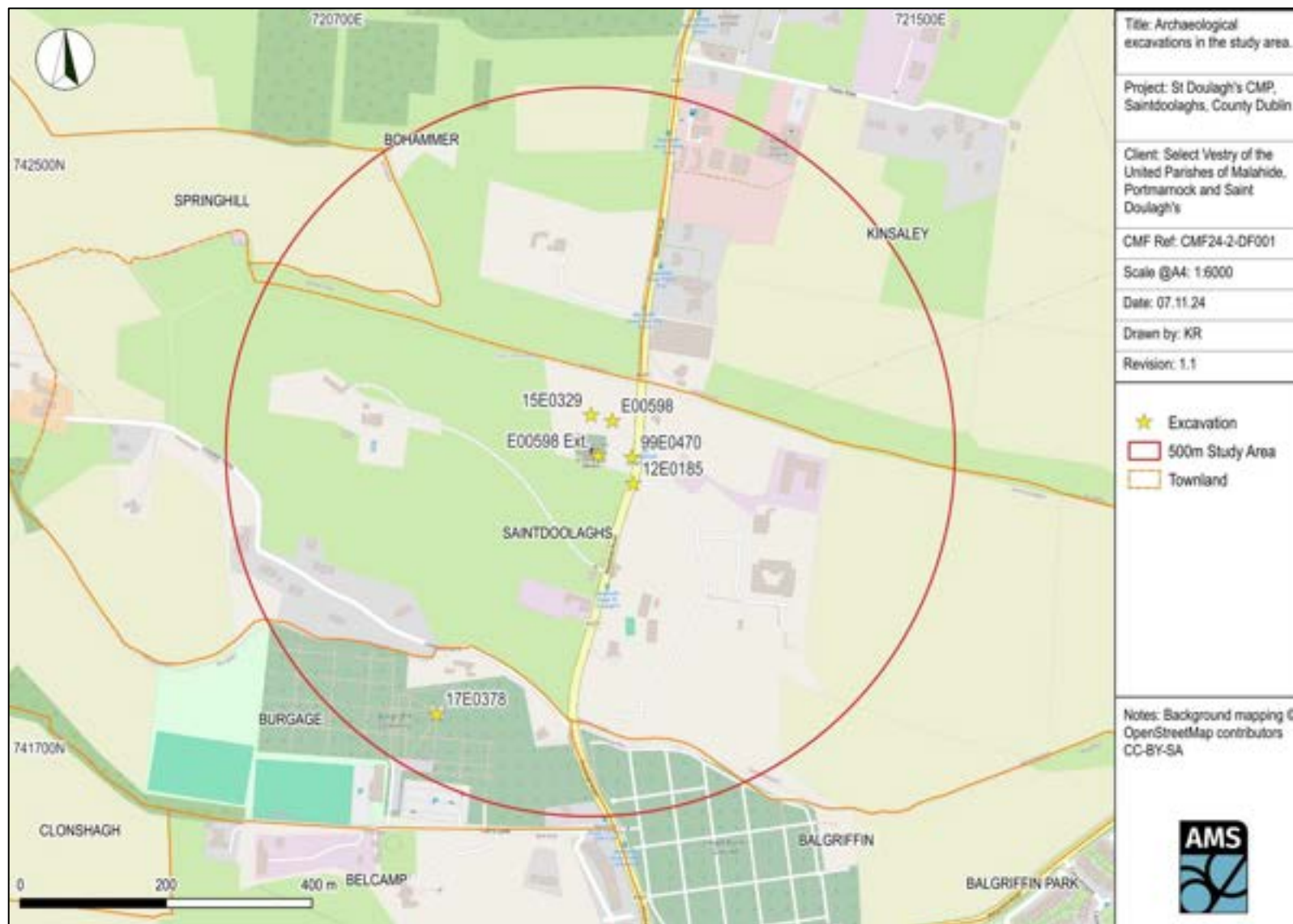


Figure 11: Archaeological excavations in the study area.





Figure 12: Resistance greyscale imagery from geophysical survey (Nicholls 2010, Figure 3).



Figure 13: Gradiometry interpretations from geophysical survey (Nicholls 2010, Figure 4).

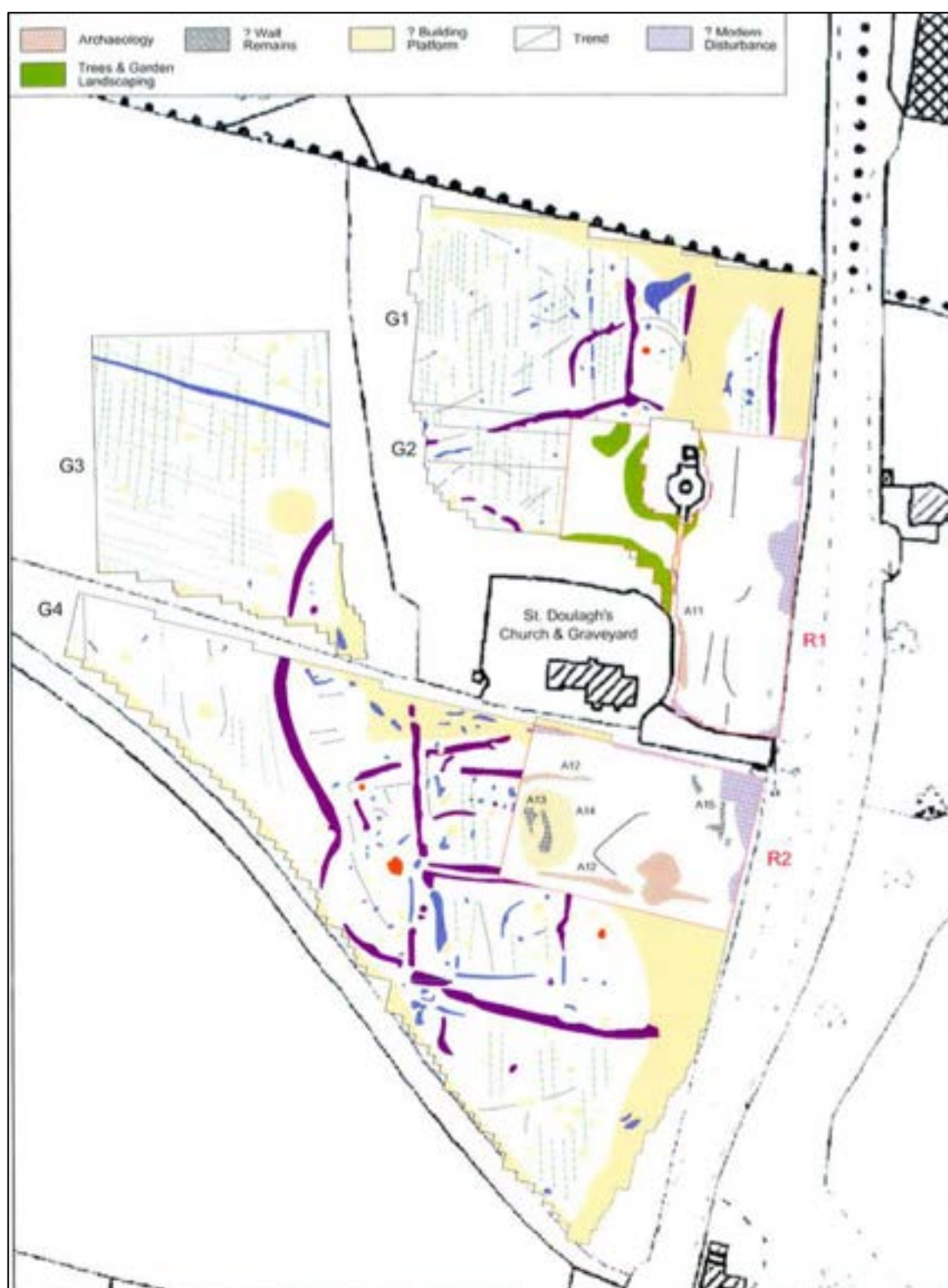


Figure 14: Resistance interpretations from geophysical survey (Nicholls 2010, Figure 5).





Figure 15: LiDAR imagery of St Doulagh's.

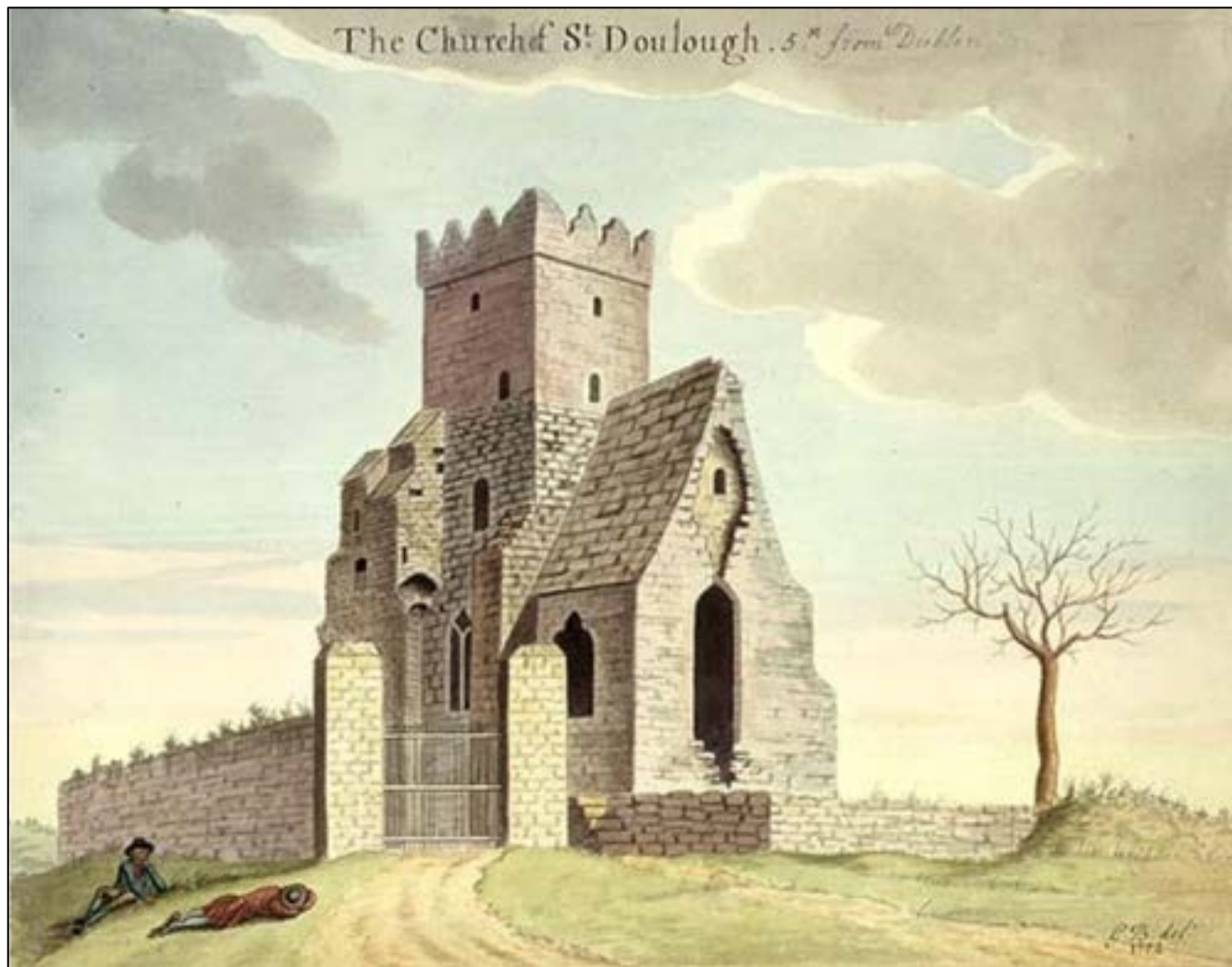


Figure 16: 'The Church of St Doulough. 5M from Dublin', by Gabriel Beranger (1772).<sup>136</sup>

<sup>136</sup> Available at: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000053737> [Accessed: 05.11.24].

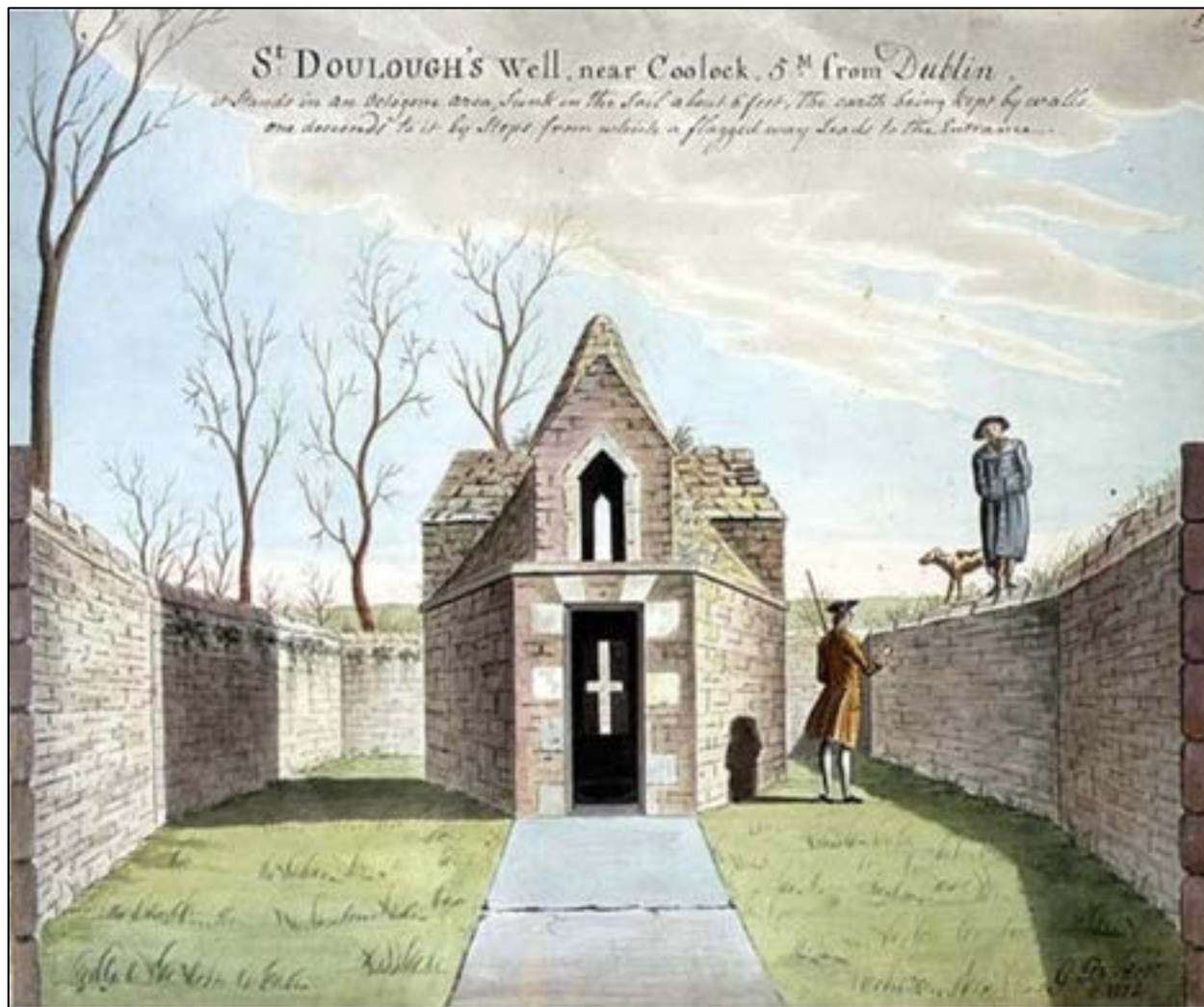


Figure 17: 'St Doulagh's well, near Coolock. 5M from Dublin', by Gabriel Beranger (1772).<sup>137</sup>

<sup>137</sup> Available at: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000053735> [Accessed: 05.11.24].



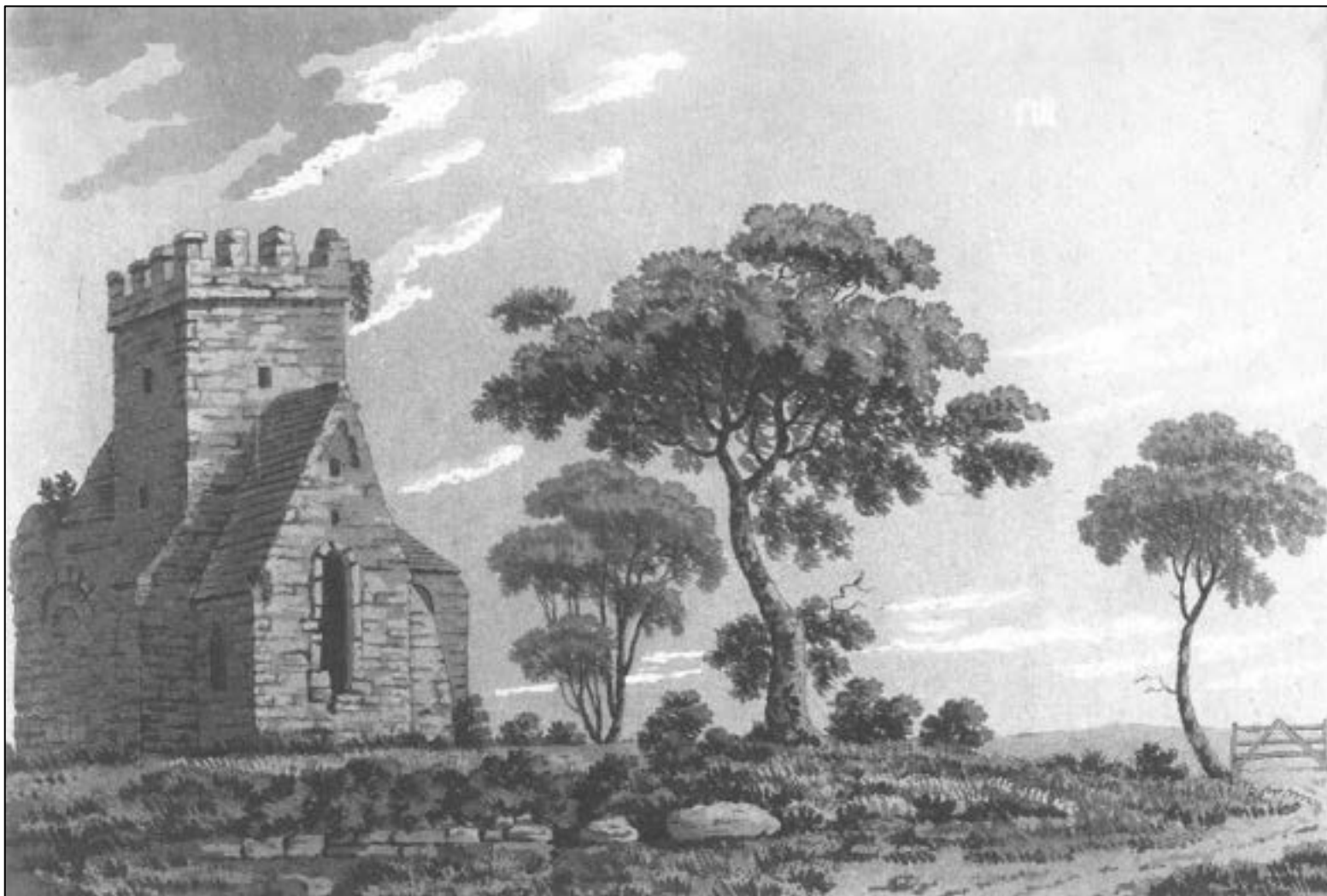


Figure 18: 'View of St. Doulagh's Church, Balgriffin, County Dublin, Ireland', by John James Barralet (1780).<sup>138</sup>

---

<sup>138</sup> Available at: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000052980> [Accessed: 06.11.24].

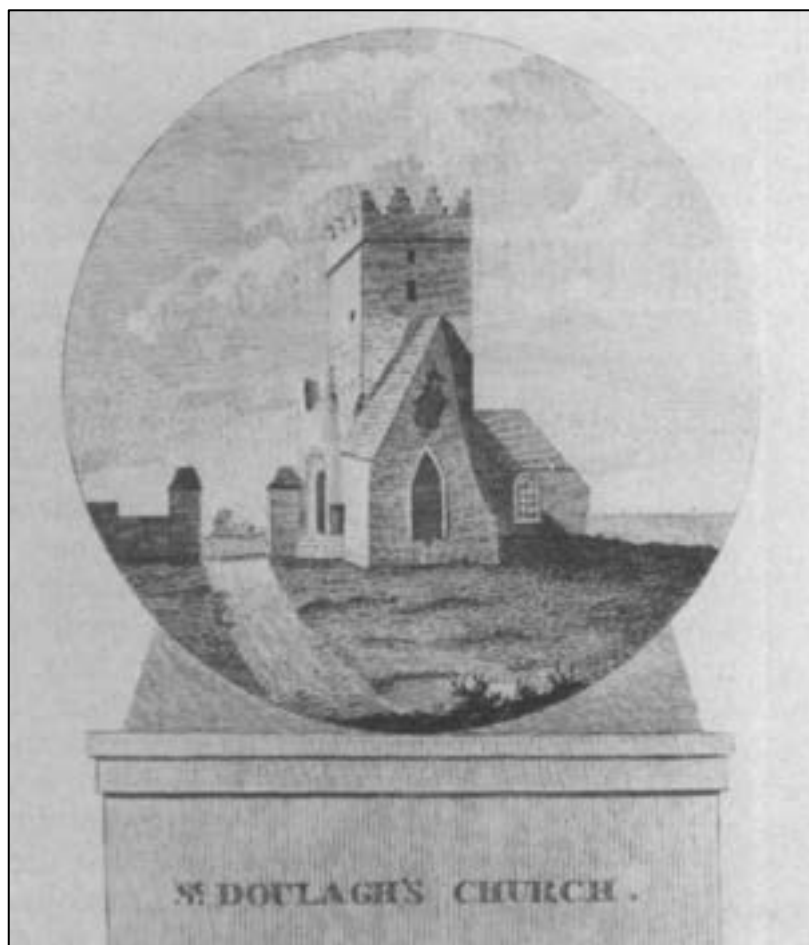


Figure 19: 'St. Doulagh's Church', by Edward Ledwich, 1790 (Harbison 1982, Figure 5).



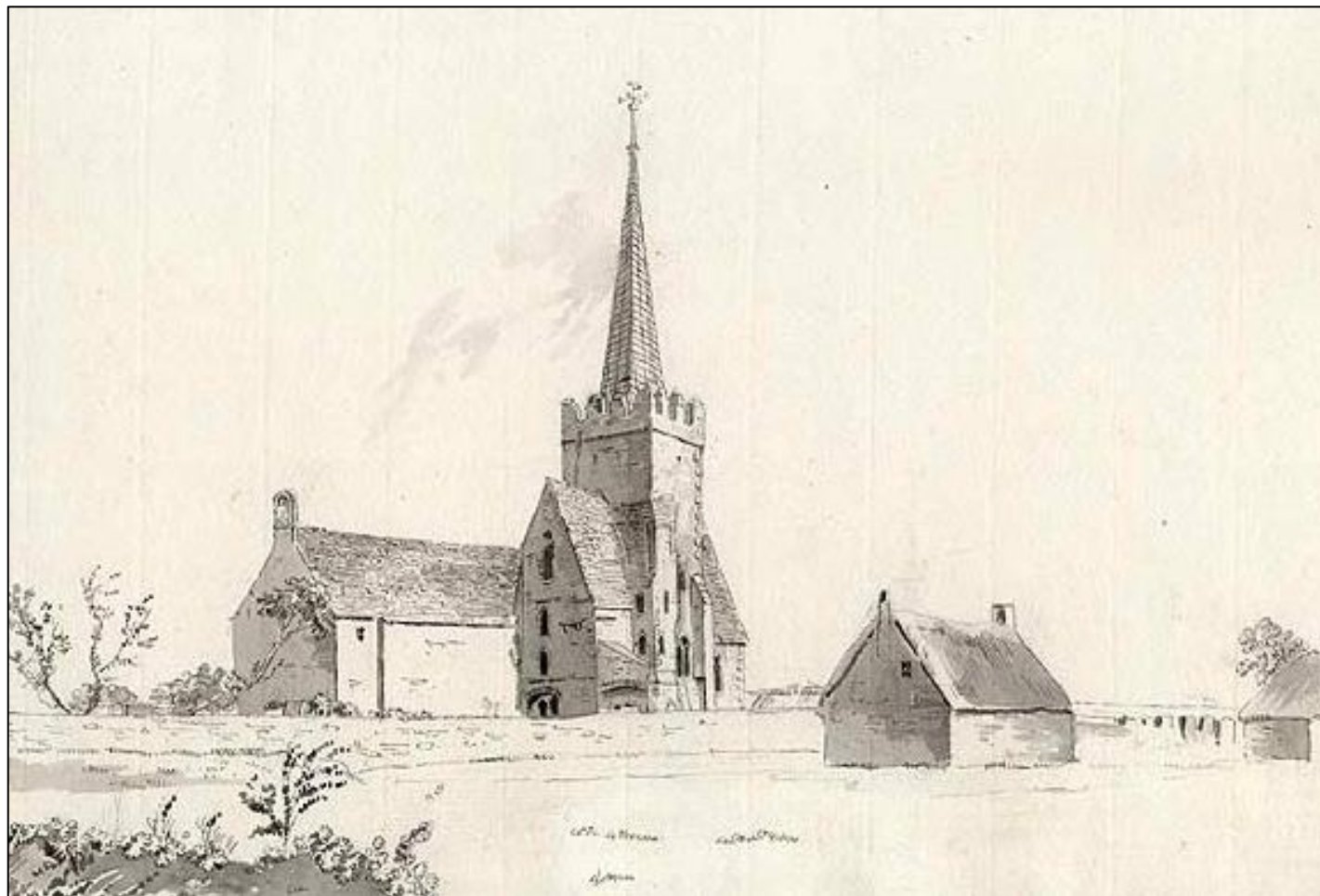


Figure 20: 'St. Doulagh's Church County of Dublin', by Francis Grose (1790–1800).<sup>139</sup>

---

<sup>139</sup> Available at: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000147137> [Accessed: 06.11.24].



Figure 21: 'St. Doulagh's Church, Co. Dublin', by Sparrow (1792).<sup>140</sup>

---

<sup>140</sup> Available at: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000543904> [Accessed: 06.11.24].



Figure 22: 'St. Doulagh's Church, county of Dublin', by George A. Hanlon (1859).<sup>141</sup>

<sup>141</sup> Available at: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000543899> [Accessed: 06.11.24].

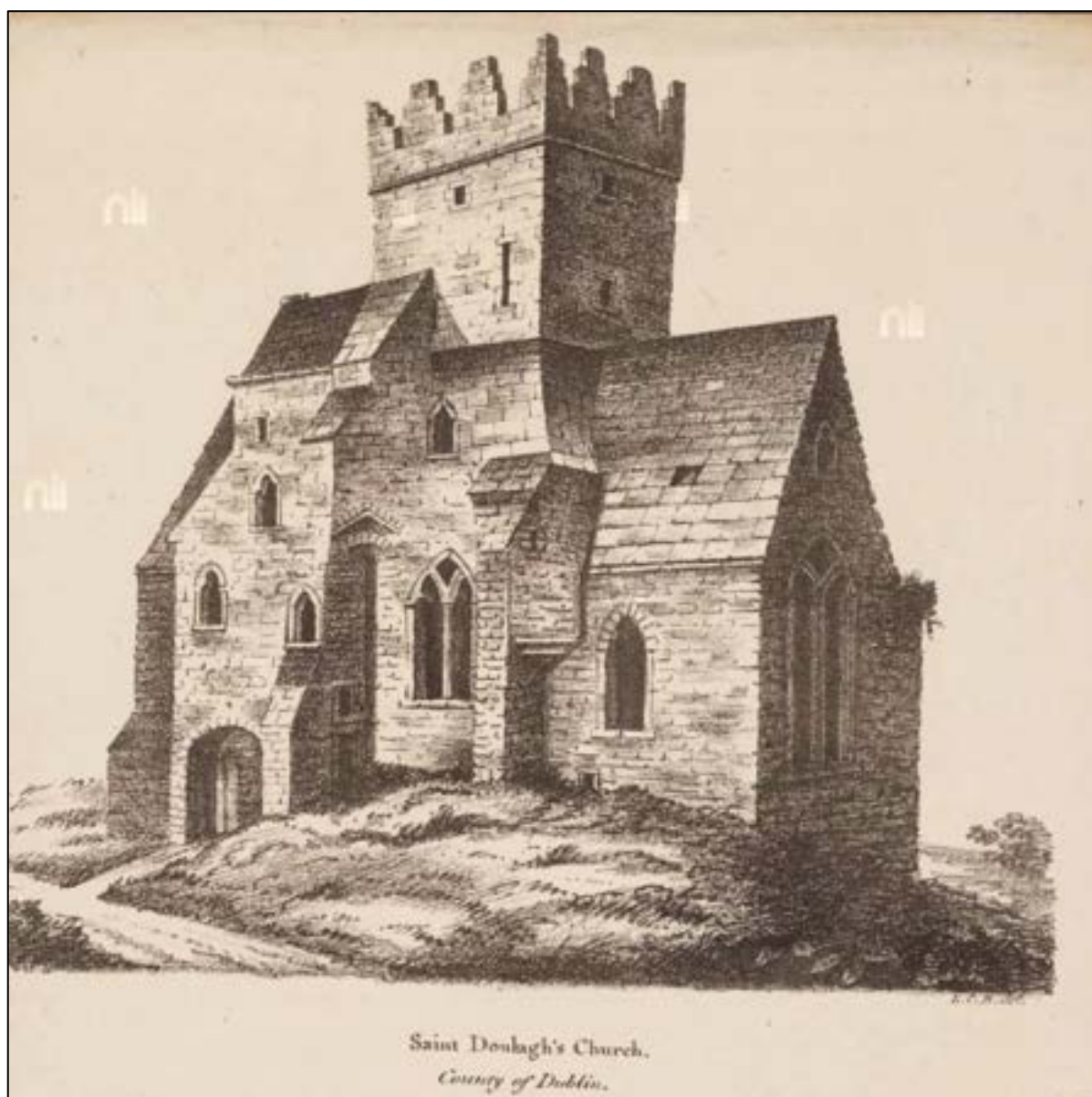


Figure 23: 'St. Doulagh's Church, County of Dublin', by William Frazer (1889–97).<sup>142</sup>

<sup>142</sup> Available at: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000736325> [Accessed: 06.11.24].





Figure 24: 'Granite Cross at St Doulagh', copy by William Frazer (1889–97), after an original drawing by George V. Du Noyer (c.1817–69).<sup>143</sup>

<sup>143</sup> Available at: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000742931> [Accessed: 06.11.24].



Figure 25: 'View of St Doulough's, Raheny', by Nathaniel Hone the Younger (c.1895–1902).<sup>144</sup>

<sup>144</sup> Available at: <http://onlinecollection.nationalgallery.ie/objects/2461/view-of-saint-douloughs-raheny;jsessionid=A0EB7D22B83D05D45CBA2DAD4BE5E8B5?ctx=bc1fe0a5-fa83-4e5d-9609-9371c5aa1a8a&idx=294> [Accessed: 06.11.24].





Figure 26: Extract from 'The Countie of Leinster...' by John Speed (1610).<sup>145</sup> The general area of St Doulagh's is shown in red.

<sup>145</sup> Available at: <https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/PR-ATLAS-00002-00061-00001/38> [Accessed: 05.11.24].





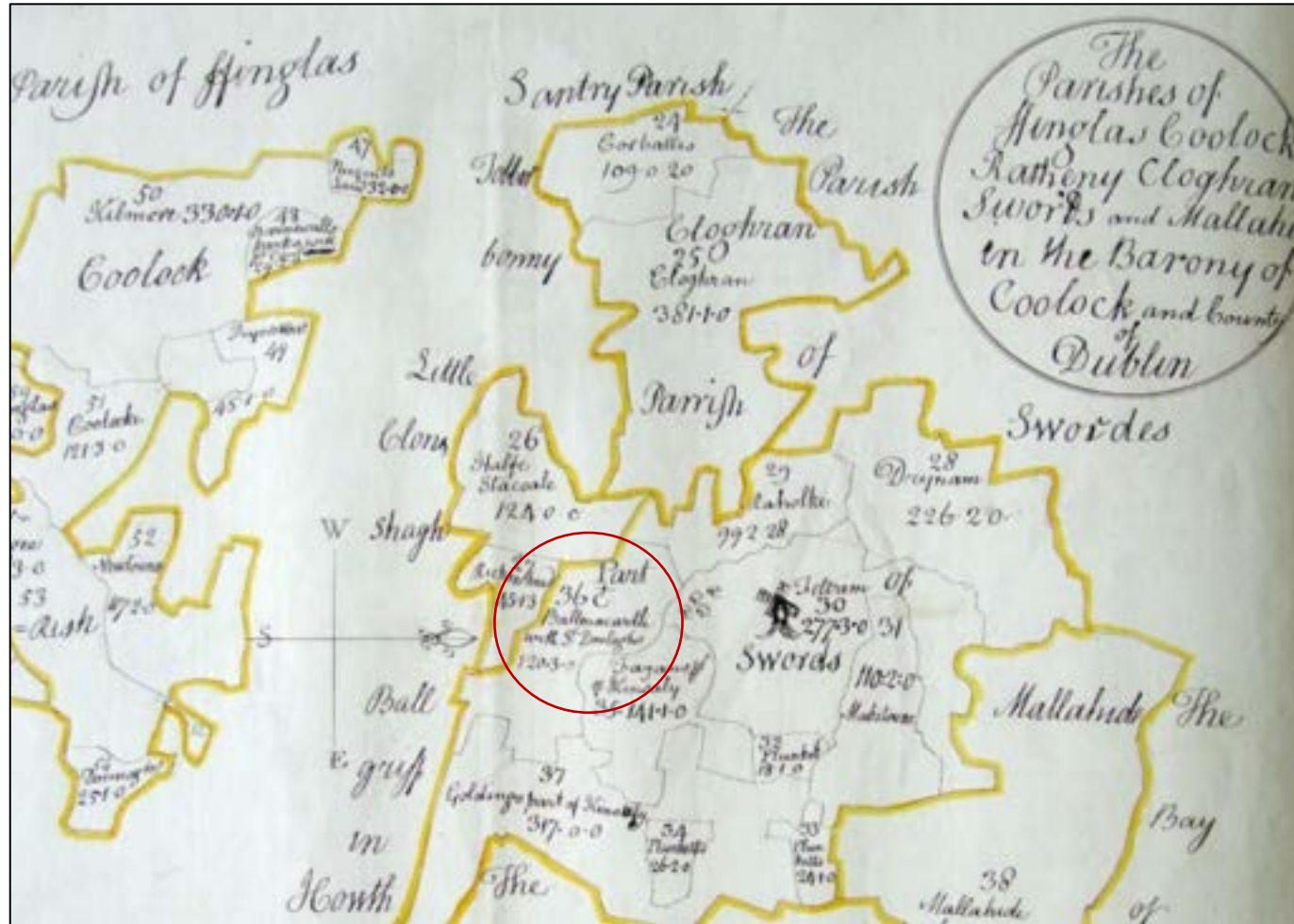


Figure 28: Extract from the Down Survey map of 'The Parishes of Finglas, Coolock, Ratheny, Sword and Mallahide' by William Wright (1655).<sup>147</sup> The general area of St Doulagh's is shown in red.

<sup>147</sup> Available at: <https://downsurvey.tchpc.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php#bm=Coolock&c=Dublin&p=Cloghran+Swords+Mallahide+Coolock+and+Finglas> [Accessed: 05.11.24].



Figure 29: Extract from 'An Actual Survey of the County of Dublin' by John Rocque (1760).<sup>148</sup> The map is orientated west and St Doulagh's is shown in red.

<sup>148</sup> Available at: <https://digitalcollections.tcd.ie/concern/works/mg74qp03f?locale=en> [Accessed: 05.11.24].





Figure 30: OS first-edition six-inch map.



Figure 31: OS first-edition 25-inch map.

## Plates



Plate 1: 'St Doulach's Church' facing west, by Edward King Tenison (1858).<sup>149</sup>

---

<sup>149</sup> Available at: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000223345> [Accessed: 07.11.24].



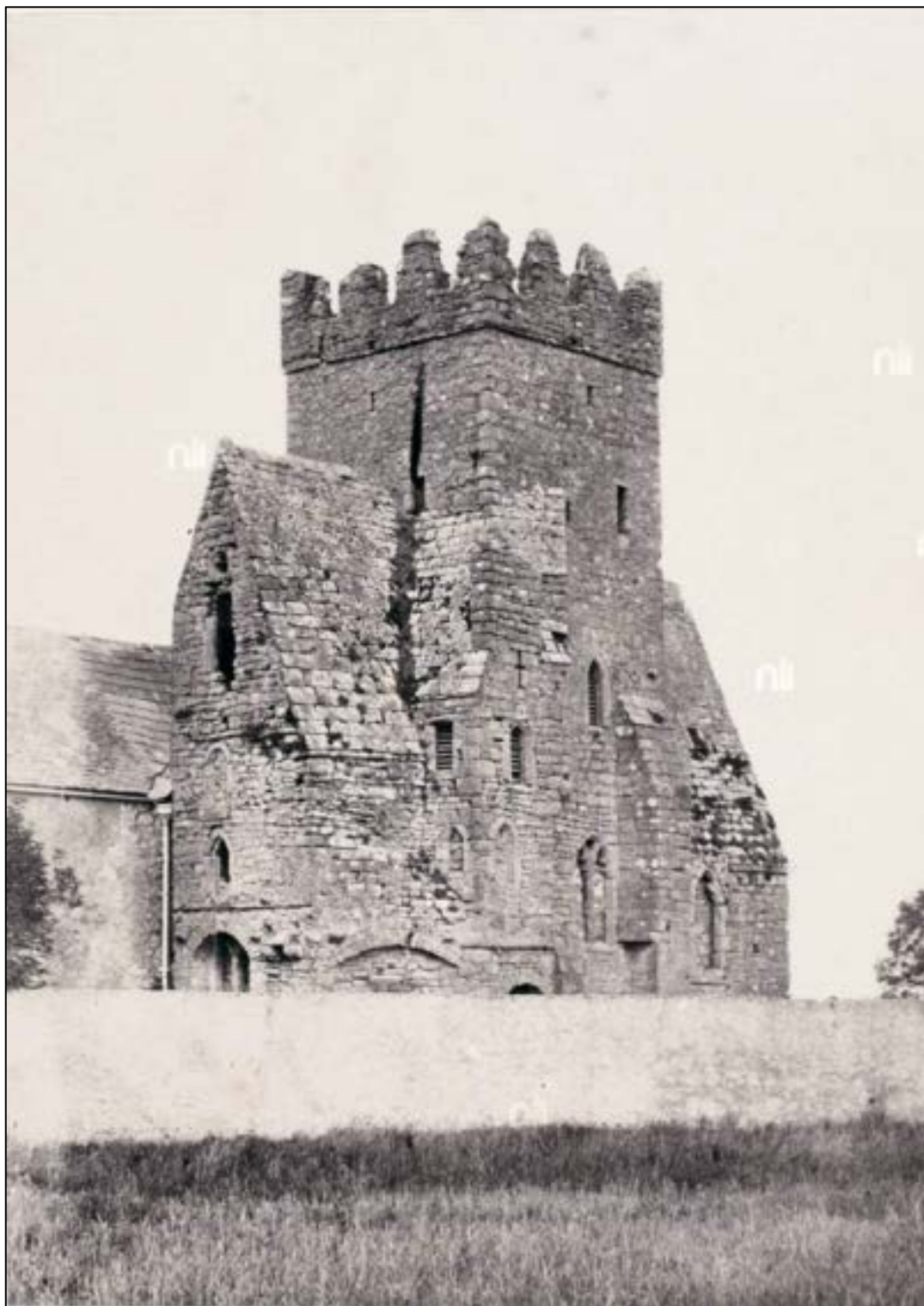


Plate 2: 'St Doolough's Church' facing north-northeast, by Edward King Tenison (1858).<sup>150</sup>

---

<sup>150</sup> Available at: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000223458> [Accessed: 07.11.24].



Plate 3: 'St Doulough's Church, Malahide, Co. Dublin' facing north-northeast, by John Fortune Lawrence (c.1860–1883).<sup>151</sup>

---

<sup>151</sup> The image is facing north-northeast and is in the Stereo Pairs Photograph Collection in the NLI. Available at: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000566065> [Accessed: 07.11.24].



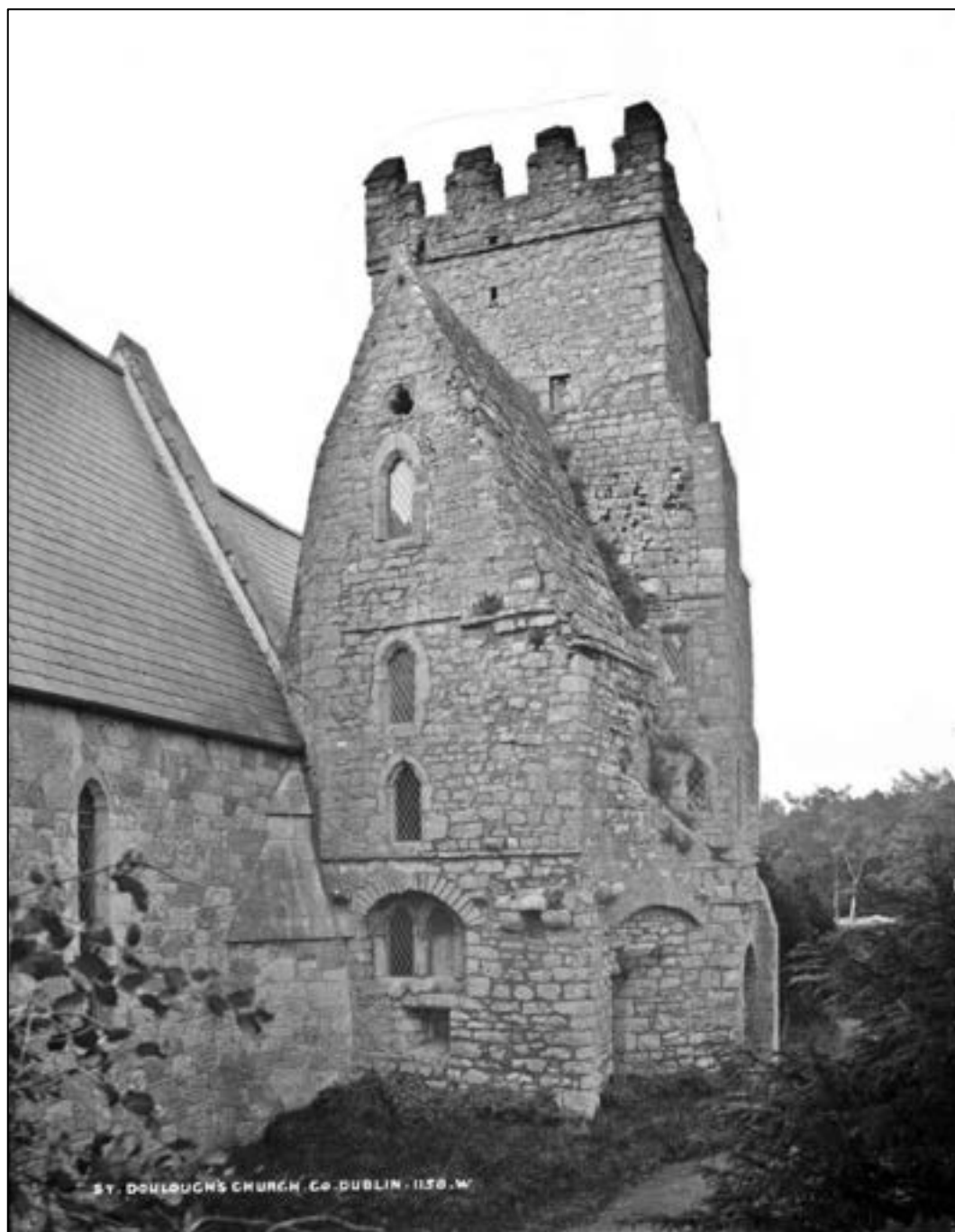


Plate 4: 'St Doulagh's Church, Co. Dublin' facing east-northeast, by Robert French (c.1865–1914).<sup>152</sup>

<sup>152</sup> Available at: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000325647> [Accessed: 07.11.24].



Plate 5: 'St Doulagh's Church, Co. Dublin' facing west, by Robert French (c.1865–1914).<sup>153</sup>

<sup>153</sup> Available at: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000325648> [Accessed: 07.11.24].



Plate 6: 'St Doulagh's Well, Co. Dublin' facing north, by Robert French (c.1865–1914).<sup>154</sup>

<sup>154</sup> Available at: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000325649> [Accessed: 07.11.24].



Plate 7: 'St Doulagh's Church facing north-northwest, by A. Harris (1894).<sup>155</sup>



Plate 8: 'St Doulagh's Church facing north, by A. Harris (1894).<sup>156</sup>

<sup>155</sup> Available at: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000284039> [Accessed: 07.11.24].

<sup>156</sup> Available at: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000284039> [Accessed: 07.11.24].





Plate 9: Latin cross at St Doulagh's, by A. Harris (1894).<sup>157</sup>



Plate 10: The Baptistry, by A. Harris (1894).<sup>158</sup>

---

<sup>157</sup> Available at: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000284039> [Accessed: 07.11.24].

<sup>158</sup> Available at: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000284039> [Accessed: 07.11.24].



Plate 11: West-facing elevation of fifteenth-century church buildings.





Plate 12: South-facing elevation of oratory and part of tower.



Plate 13: Interior of oratory with view east towards east window.



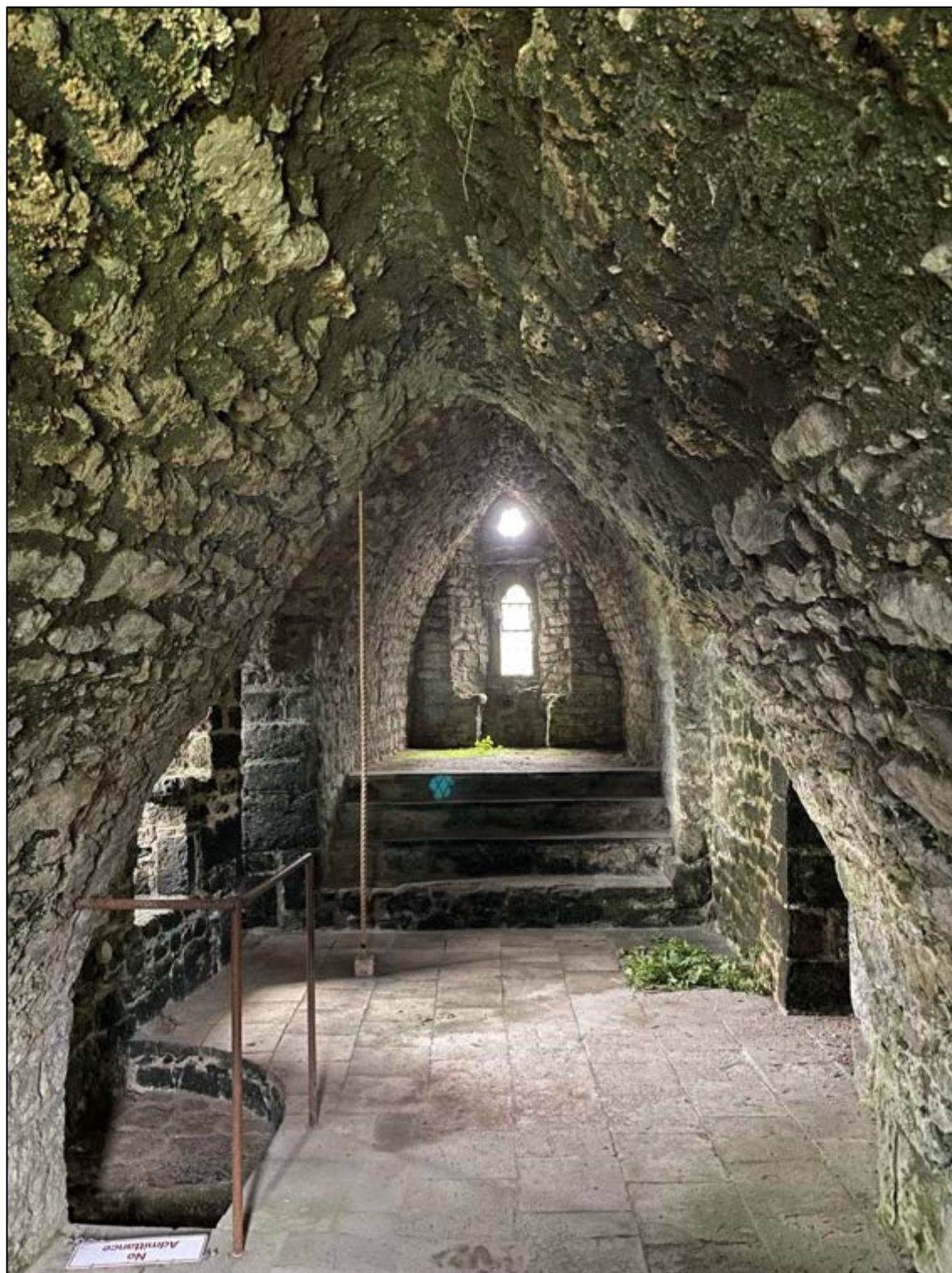


Plate 14: First-floor level mezzanine of medieval church.





Plate 15: Architectural fragments in oratory.



Plate 16: View from bell tower facing south-southeast.



Plate 17: View east from bell tower across St Doulagh's Field.





Plate 18: View east towards chancel in nineteenth-century church.





Plate 19: Vegetation encroaching cross in graveyard.



Plate 20: Nineteenth-century railings in graveyard.





Plate 21: Broken and fallen memorial in graveyard.



Plate 22: Subsiding headstones in northwestern part of graveyard.





Plate 23: Approach to Baptistry, facing north.





Plate 24: Hawthorn tree in northern retaining wall of Baptistry and rectangular bath/trough.





Plate 25: View of exterior of Baptistry, facing west.





Plate 26: Interior of Baptistry with lime plaster, facing north.





Plate 27: Steps down to the vault and St Catherine's Well, facing west.





Plate 28: Interior of the vault showing refuse, facing south.



Plate 29: View of Baptistry and St Doulagh's Field, facing west.



Plate 30: View of grassland meadow in St Doulagh's Field, facing southwest.





Plate 31: Invertebrate in grassland meadow in St Doulagh's Field.



Plate 32: Wildflowers in St Doulagh's Field.





Plate 33: Members of Malahide Men's Shed at the St Doulagh's Heritage Week event.



Plate 34: Visitors learning about St Doulagh's during the Heritage Week event.

## Appendix 1: Archaeological Heritage Assets

<b>Reference Nos.</b>	RMP/SMR DU015-009001-; RPS 0459; NIAH 11350016
<b>Site Type</b>	Church
<b>Name</b>	St Doulagh's Church of Ireland Church
<b>Legal Status</b>	Recorded Monument; Protected Structure; listed in the SMR and NIAH Building Survey
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721054, 742100
<b>Description (HEV)</b>	<p>The earliest reference to St Doulagh is found in the ninth century Martyrology of Oengus where he is referred to as 'Duilech of Clochar' (Stokes 1905, 235). The present church building is multi-period. It is rectangular in plan with a central residential tower that projects above the roofline and has stepped battlements. The masonry is well coursed in the central section but the blocks are more irregular in the east end. It is entered through a later addition to the building, which dates from 1864.</p> <p>The east end of the building is the earliest portion, dating from the mid-twelfth century. It has a vaulted stone roof with a pitch of 68 degrees, apparently the steepest pitch in Ireland (Leask 1955, 40) and has a croft within. Chamber of entrance hall referred to as the 'hermit's cell' reputed to be a burial place of founder. The central tower was added in the fifteenth century when the earlier west gable was demolished and the church extended (Harbison 1982, 34). The level of the stone roof is higher at the west end and there are two separate low vaulted rooms below the croft. The east ground floor window is a thirteenth century double light, with tracery and sandstone jambs.</p> <p>The remainder of the church is of fifteenth century date. A mural chamber carried on a retaining arch and squinch projects above the ground floor entrance along the south wall. The east end of the south wall is lit by a sandstone tracery window with a pointed arch. The west chamber off the first floor is lit by a trilobe cusped window and another above this is made of tufa.</p> <p>Archaeological excavations were undertaken at St Doulagh's in 1989 and a number of coins and tokens were recovered, including some from the spring of the baptistry, of which the oldest was a posthumously minted silver penny of Henry VIII. Small quantities of pottery fragments of all dates from the thirteenth to fourteenth centuries onwards were recovered. There were archaeologically significant deposits in a number of areas, including stratified occupation debris, indications of both inner and outer enclosing ditches, and an area of burial. The latter contained at least six extended human burials in very shallow grave pits, directly beneath the plough-soil. These were adult burials (Swan 1990, 18–19).</p> <p>Two further periods of excavation were undertaken at this site during 1990. In the chancel of the church two fragments of roof tiling were recovered, one deeply scored and both with traces of green glaze on their outer surfaces. Along the south wall, a foundation trench 0.55m deep had been cut into the boulder clay, at the base of which a mantling of pebbles was laid. Above this, a rough paving of large, flat stones had been laid, forming the base of the wall. On this paving, a foundation of rough, uncoursed masonry rose for 0.4m to 0.45m, above which was the finely coursed masonry of the wall proper. The remnants of an early burial were set into the boulder clay at the lowest level, predating the construction of this wall.</p> <p>The inner face of the north wall of the chancel had been partly dismantled to allow for a large recess with a pointed arch, which had been set into the thickness of the wall. Clearance here revealed a solid masonry plinth at a depth of 0.52m below the old flooring, upon which a complete skeleton was laid. The skull, however, had been set into a recess, consisting of a single stone with a rectangular section cut through</p>

	its mass, placed in an upright position on the plinth, so that the head of the burial was completely protected, and only the face could have been viewed prior to burial. The section of the trench cut to the north of the vault revealed a well-defined ditch at a point 12.8m from the vault face. This ditch was interpreted as part of the enclosure revealed to the south of the site (DU015-009005-; Swan 1991, 24).
<b>Source</b>	HEV. Available at: <a href="https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/">https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/</a> [Accessed: 28.07.24].
<b>References</b>	<p>Harbison, P. 1982. 'St Doulagh's Church.' <i>Studies: An Irish Quarterly Review</i>, Vol. 71, No. 281, pp.27–42.</p> <p>Leask, H.G. 1955. <i>Irish churches and monastic buildings. Vol. I. The first phases of the Romanesque</i>. Dundalk: Dundalgan Press.</p> <p>Stokes, W. 1905. <i>Féilire Óengusso Céili Dé: The Martyrology of Oengus the Culdee</i>. London: Harrison &amp; Sons.</p> <p>Swan, D.L. 1990. 'St. Doulagh's, Balgriffin.' In I. Bennett (ed.), <i>Excavations 1989: Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland</i>, pp.18–19. Bray: Wordwell.</p> <p>Swan, D.L. 1991. 'Church of St. John the Evangelist, Coolock.' In I. Bennett (ed.), <i>Excavations 1990: Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland</i>, pp.25. Bray: Wordwell.</p>

<b>Reference No.</b>	DU015-009002-
<b>Site Type</b>	Cross
<b>Legal Status</b>	Recorded Monument; listed in the SMR
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721102, 742082
<b>Description (HEV)</b>	A stone cross marks the entrance to St Doulagh's Church (DU015-009001-) and graveyard (DU015-009006-). In the late eighteenth century, when Austin Cooper visited the site, it was located in the graveyard (Price 1942, 70). It has very short arms and a triangular-shaped head (height 1.6m). It is set on a double-stepped pedestal immediately next to the Malahide Road.
<b>Source</b>	HEV. Available at: <a href="https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/">https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/</a> [Accessed: 28.07.24].
<b>References</b>	Price, L. 1942. <i>An Eighteenth-Century Antiquary: The Sketches, Notes and Diaries of Austin Cooper, 1759–1880</i> . Dublin: Falconer.

<b>Reference Nos.</b>	RMP/SMR DU015-009003-; RPS 0459
<b>Site Type</b>	Ritual site – holy well
<b>Name</b>	St Catherine's Well
<b>Legal Status</b>	Recorded Monument; Protected Structure; listed in the SMR
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721074, 742162
<b>Description (HEV)</b>	St Catherine's Well joins onto the north wall of St Doulagh's Well (DU015-009004-), 30m north of St Doulagh's Church (DU015-009001-) and graveyard (DU015-009006-). It comprises an underground well enclosed by a rectangular vaulted building.



	<p>Entrance in the east through a pointed arched doorway. The interior is lit by a double-light window in the north. The roof is pitched as is the gable over the east door (Anon. 1914, 268; Ó Danachair 1958, 76–77).</p> <p>Folklore collected in 1937 from Baldoyle Convent recorded the following details about St Catherine's Well:</p> <p><i>At the time of Cromwell there was a Catholic Church called St Dolough's near Raheny, it was taken from the Catholics. There was also a monastery where monks lived; they were banished out of it. They came to a place called Balgriffin Park and built a Catholic Church. One night a well was formed by a miracle. Some holy person appeared to one of the monks and told him that the well should be called Saint Catherine's well.</i></p> <p><i>The well is in the shape of a square. There are three windows in the wall which surrounds it one at each side and one in the back; in the middle of the square there is a cement hole in the shape of a boiler. This contains the water. There are a couple of steps going down into the well, and the people can go round the well by walking on the stone because it is a couple of feet wide. Many a person with sore eyes was cured by the water of the well. There is also a place in the field which is called Saint Patrick's bed; at certain times of the year water comes into it, beside the well there is a bush or tree (The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0792, pp.136–37).</i></p> <p>Folklore collected from Kinsealy School recorded that:</p> <p><i>St Catherine's well is situated on the towns-land of St Dolough's. It lies about one hundred off the Malahide Road. It is quite convenient to the church and graveyard. To approach the well one has to go down a number of steps on the wall. And when he arrives, he finds himself in a stone roofed building. On the south side he sees a crude alter where the priests used to say mass in the penal when they were forbidden by the law to do so.</i></p> <p><i>It is well worth a visit to this historic place as there is another well close at hand called St. Dolough's well and the church also has its history as it is of roof to. St. Catherine's well at the present time it is filled with water, which was used for given cattle drinks but in summer time one can reach the inside without difficulties. There is a cure for sore eyes in the water of one of the wells (The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0792, pp.206).</i></p> <p>According to folklore collected from Kinsealy School:</p> <p><i>The Fagans a very old family. One of them erected St. Catherine's well which stands about fifty yards from St. Dolough's church. The well is about five feet under the ground surrounded by a wall. Fagans name is on a stone ornament in the well (The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0792, pp.219).</i></p>
<b>Source</b>	<p>HEV [online]. Available at: <a href="https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/">https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/</a> [Accessed: 28.07.24].</p> <p>The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0792, pp.136–37. Available at: <a href="https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498789/4385667">https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498789/4385667</a> [Accessed: 14.08.24].</p> <p>The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0792, pp.206. Available at: <a href="https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498820/4385746/4498823">https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498820/4385746/4498823</a> [Accessed: 14.08.24].</p> <p>The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0792, pp.219. Available at: <a href="https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498820/4385760/4510836">https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498820/4385760/4510836</a> [Accessed: 14.08.24].</p>
<b>References</b>	<p>Anon. 1914. 'North County Dublin.' <i>Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland</i>, Vol. 44, pp.250–68.</p> <p>Ó Danachair, C. 1958. 'The holy wells of County Dublin.' <i>Reportorium Novum</i>, Vol. 2, pp.68–87.</p>



<b>Reference Nos.</b>	RMP/SMR DU015-009004-; RPS 0459; NIAH 11350017
<b>Site Type</b>	Ritual site – holy well
<b>Name</b>	St Doolagh's Well
<b>Legal Status</b>	Recorded Monument; Protected Structure listed in the SMR and NIAH Building Survey
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721072, 742150
<b>Description (HEV)</b>	<p>St Doolagh's Well lies downslope immediately south of St Catherine's Well (DU015-009003-) and 25m north of St Doolagh's Church (DU015-009001-) and graveyard (DU015-009006-). According to D'Alton (1838, 224) this well was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. It is a circular stone-lined well below ground level which is enclosed by an octagonal building (dimensions: width 1.4m; wall thickness 0.9m) with a cone-shaped roof similar to that at St Sylvester's Well (DU012-023001-) in Malahide Village. The entrance is in the south of a sunken court. Interior is lit by cross-shaped windows. Above a string course is the cone-shaped roof, which is marked by projecting gables on the north, east, south and west with narrow pointed windows. Built of coursed masonry with well-shaped blocks (Anon. 1914, 268). Frescoes in the interior painted in 1609 by a Mr Fagan, of Feltrim were still visible in the last century (Walsh 1888, 233).</p> <p>In 1610, Barnaby Rich wrote the following account about the well:</p> <p><i>To the North-wards from the City of Dublin, they have S. Dolocks well; another sanctified place ceremoniously frequented at certaine seasons, foolish and ridiculous to be spoken of; so that let the wind blow which way it list, East, West, North, or South, Dublin is so seated, that a Papist may go from the high crosse, with a Blowne Sheat right before the wind, either to an Idalatrous Masse within the towne, or to a Superstitious Well, without the Towne</i> (Rich 1610, 53).</p> <p>The well was described by John D'Alton in 1838 as follows:</p> <p><i>A well dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. The water is contained in a circular basin, and over it is an octangular inclosure forming a cone. About it were anciently some fresco paintings and decorations, put up by Peter Fagan of the Feltrim family. The descent of the Holy Ghost on the Apostles was represented at the top, and round the sides were the effigies of Saints Patrick, Columba, and Brigid, much after the manner they are engraved in the title to Messingham's Florilegium, as also of the patron St. Doulogh, in a hermit's habit; on the wall was likewise the following inscription engraved upon a marble slab, commemorative of the sanative effects of this holy well; 'Piscinae Solymis clarae decus efferat alter, Et medicas populus jactet Hebraeus aquas, Grata Deo patrium celebrat Fingallia fontem Doulachi precibus munera nacta piis; Morbos ille fugat promptus viresque reponit Aegris, et causas mille salutis habet; Scilicet aequus agit mediis Doulachus in undis, Angelus ut fontem, sic movet ille suum; O fons noster amor! si te negleximus olim, Mox erit ut nomen sit super astra tuum'</i> (D'Alton 1838, 224).</p> <p>The Latin inscription roughly translates as; 'Another may bring out the bright pools of Solymus, And the healing people shall throw the Hebrew waters, Grateful to the God of the country, Fingalia celebrates the spring of Doulachi, the gifts obtained by the pious; He readily banishes diseases and restores strength to the sick, and has a thousand causes of salvation; Of course, Doulachus acts equally in the mediums of the waves, the Angel as a spring, so he moves his own; O source of our love! if we once neglected you, soon your name will be above the stars'.</p>

	<p>Alternative translation reads; "Bethsaida's sacred pool let others tell, With healing virtues how her waters swell; An equal glory shall Fingalia claim, Nor be less grateful for her blessed stream. Thy prayers Dolachus mounted up to heaven, Thence to the well the mighty power is given, To drive the fiery fever far away, Strength to replace and rescue from decay, In every malady to life a stay, The cherub, wondrous moves his waters there, The saint behold! who stirs the fountain here. Hail lovely fount, if long unsung thy name, It hence shall rise above the starry frame' (Joyce 1912, 285).</p> <p>In 1897, St Doolagh's Well was described by Wakeman as follows:</p> <p><i>The well of St. Doulough, which was probably also used as a baptisters, is quite in keeping with the curious character of the church. The spring, which was covered by a stone-roofed octagonal building, rises through a circular basin, cut out of a single stone, and was, not many years ago, thought to possess miraculous powers. According to tradition the interior was anciently decorated with pictures, and holes are pointed out as having been made for the reception of iron pins, or holdfasts, by which they were secured to the wall (Stubbs 1897, 459).</i></p> <p>Folklore collected in 1937 from Baldoyle Convent recorded the following details about St Catherine's Well/St Doolagh's Well:</p> <p><i>At the time of Cromwell there was a Catholic Church called St Dolough's near Raheny, it was taken from the Catholics. There was also a monastery where monks lived; they were banished out of it. They came to a place called Balgriffin Park and built a Catholic Church. One night a well was formed by a miracle. Some holy person appeared to one of the monks and told him that the well should be called Saint Catherine's well. The well is in the shape of a square. There are three windows in the wall which surrounds it one at each side and one in the back; in the middle of the square there is a cement hole in the shape of a boiler. This contains the water. There are a couple of steps going down into the well, and the people can go round the well by walking on the stone because it is a couple of feet wide. Many a person with sore eyes was cured by the water of the well. There is also a place in the field which is called Saint Patrick's bed; at certain times of the year water comes into it, beside the well there is a bush or tree (The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0792, pp.136–37).</i></p> <p>Folklore collected from Kinsealy School recorded that:</p> <p><i>There are two holy wells in this vicinity. One is situated beside St Dolough's church and the other is in Feltrim. The one at St Dolough's is on a height. It can be seen from the road in a field on the right-hand side of the road that runs from Malahide to Dublin. St Dolough dedicated the well to St Catherine. There is a cure for sore eyes at it. First you must throw in a pin, rub the water in the eyes and take some away with you. It is not used for household purposes. There is also a wishing well beside it. There are briars and a white thorn bush growing over the well. About 46 years ago there was a wall built around the well. Years ago, rounds and pilgrimages were made (The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0792, pp.230–31).</i></p>
<p><b>Source</b></p>	<p>HEV. Available at: <a href="https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/">https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/</a> [Accessed: 28.07.24].</p> <p>The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0792, pp.136–37. Available at: <a href="https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498789/4385667">https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498789/4385667</a> [Accessed: 15.08.24].</p> <p>The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0792, pp.230–31. Available at: <a href="https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498829/4385775">https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498829/4385775</a> [Accessed: 15.08.24].</p>
<p><b>References</b></p>	<p>Anon. 1914. 'North County Dublin.' <i>Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland</i>, Vol. 44, pp.250–68.</p>

	<p>D'Alton, J. 1838. <i>The History of the County of Dublin</i>. Dublin: Hodges &amp; Smith.</p> <p>Joyce, W. St. John, 1912. <i>The Neighbourhood of Dublin</i>. Dublin: M.H. Gill &amp; Son.</p> <p>Ó Danachair, C. 1958. 'The holy wells of County Dublin.' <i>Reportorium Novum</i>, Vol. 2, pp.68–87.</p> <p>Rich, B. 1610. <i>A New Description of Ireland</i>. London: Thomas Adams.</p> <p>Stubbs, W.C. 1897. 'Excursions in County Dublin. Descriptive sketch of places visited.' <i>Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland</i>, Vol. 46, pp.446–460.</p> <p>Walsh, Rev. R. 1888. <i>Fingal and its Churches</i>. Dublin: William McGee.</p>
--	---

Reference No.	DU015-009005-
Site Type	Ecclesiastical enclosure
Legal Status	Recorded Monument; listed in the SMR
Townland	Saintdoolaghs
Coordinates (ITM)	721043, 742091
Description (HEV)	<p>The enclosing graveyard wall around St Doulagh's Church (DU015-009001-) has a distinct curve in the southeast quadrant. In 1977, there were traces of bank visible to the north of the graveyard (OPW Report). This may indicate a former ecclesiastical enclosure in the environs of St. Doulagh's Church. Excavation undertaken at this site during 1990 revealed a well-defined ditch, which was interpreted as part of the ecclesiastical enclosure revealed to the south of the site (Swan 1991, 25).</p> <p>Geophysical survey (Consent 09R165) was undertaken for the Friends of St Doulagh's. The well-defined enclosure (c.162m in diameter), extends into the fields about the northern, southern and western perimeter of St Doulagh's church and graveyard. The eastern limit has been truncated by expansion of the Malahide Road. Within the enclosure is an array of archaeological activity, comprising a network of enclosure remains, a dense scatter of pits, gullies, and associated features. Evidence of industrial activity in the form of possible kiln locations and associated features has also been recorded, with annexes to the north.</p>
Source	HEV. Available at: <a href="https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/">https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/</a> [Accessed: 28.07.24].
References	<p>Nicholls, J. 2010. Geophysical Survey Report, St Doulagh's Church, St Doolaghs townland, Co. Dublin (Licence 09R165). Unpublished report submitted to the NMS, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>Swan, D.L. 1990. 'St. Doulagh's, Balgriffin.' In I. Bennett (ed.), <i>Excavations 1989: Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland</i>, pp.18–19. Bray: Wordwell.</p> <p>Swan, D.L. 1991. 'Church of St. John the Evangelist, Coolock.' In I. Bennett (ed.), <i>Excavations 1990: Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland</i>, pp.24–25. Bray: Wordwell.</p>

Reference No.	DU015-009006-
Site Type	Graveyard
Legal Status	Recorded Monument; listed in the SMR
Townland	Saintdoolaghs
Coordinates (ITM)	721045, 742117

<b>Description (HEV)</b>	A sub-rectangular area defined by a masonry wall which encloses the remains of St Doulagh's Church (DU015-009001-). It is raised on the north side. There are late medieval mouldings used as coping stones for the wall south of the church. There are also two more mouldings at the foot of the stone steps in the southwest (DU015-009007-). Excavations in 1989 showed that the ground level around the church had been truncated and most of the burials removed. This activity was associated with extensive reconstruction works which took place during the nineteenth century (Swan, 1990, 18-19). The graveyard contains a mixture of eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth-century headstones (FCC 2008).
<b>Source</b>	HEV. Available at: <a href="https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/">https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/</a> [Accessed: 28.07.24].
<b>References</b>	FCC 2008. <i>Fingal Historic Graveyards Project, Vols. 1 &amp; 2</i> . Swords: Fingal County Council. Swan, D.L. 1990. 'St. Doulagh's, Balgriffin.' In I. Bennett (ed.), <i>Excavations 1989: Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland</i> , pp.18–19. Bray: Wordwell.

<b>Reference No.</b>	DU015-009007-
<b>Site Type</b>	Architectural fragment
<b>Legal Status</b>	Listed in the SMR
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721048, 742098
<b>Description (HEV)</b>	There are late medieval mouldings used as coping stones for the wall south of the church (DU015-009001-). There are also two more mouldings at the foot of the stone steps in the southwest.
<b>Source</b>	HEV. Available at: <a href="https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/">https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/</a> [Accessed: 28.07.24].

<b>Reference No.</b>	DU015-009008-
<b>Site Type</b>	Field system
<b>Legal Status</b>	Listed in the SMR
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721026, 742043
<b>Description (HEV)</b>	Geophysical survey (Consent 09R165) undertaken at St Doulagh's demonstrated that the ecclesiastical enclosure (c.162m in diameter) (DU015-009005-) extends into the fields to the north, south and west of the church (DU015-009001-) and graveyard (DU015-009006-). A sub-rectangular network of ditches was identified to the south of the church extending further to the south as far as the ecclesiastical enclosure (DU015-009005-). These are likely to represent a network of enclosure remains contemporary with early settlement at St Doulagh's, which later evolved according to changing patterns of land-use at the site through to the nineteenth century as there is a partial correlation with former boundary alignments indicated on the first edition OS six-inch map. The results of the survey further suggest that interspersed with the ditches are pits and other features (1.5m–4m in diameter) that could be interpreted as kiln remains or similar industrial deposits (Nicholls 2010, 7).



<b>Source</b>	HEV. Available at: <a href="https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/">https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/</a> [Accessed: 28.07.24].
<b>References</b>	Nicholls, J. 2010. Geophysical Survey Report (RMP DU015-009001 – 006). St. Doulagh's Church & Graveyard, St. Doolagh's Townland, County Dublin (Consent 09R165). Unpublished report prepared by TAG Geophysics for the Friends of St Doulagh's.

<b>Reference No.</b>	DU015-009009-
<b>Site Type</b>	Enclosure
<b>Legal Status</b>	Listed in the SMR
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721008, 742125
<b>Description (HEV)</b>	Geophysical survey (Consent 09R165) undertaken at St Doulagh's church and graveyard detected the fragmented remains of a possible subcircular enclosure (60m in diameter) centred to the west of the church and graveyard. The remains were poorly defined due to interference from modern ferrous deposits. However, it does suggest the presence of an enclosure which is not contemporary with the present location of St Doulagh's church and graveyard (Nicholls 2009, 7).
<b>Source</b>	HEV. Available at: <a href="https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/">https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/</a> [Accessed: 28.07.24].
<b>References</b>	Nicholls, J. 2009. Geophysical Survey Report (RMP DU015-009001 – 006). St. Doulagh's Church & Graveyard, St. Doolagh's Townland, County Dublin (Consent 09R165). Unpublished report prepared by TAG Geophysics for the Friends of St Doulagh's.

<b>Reference No.</b>	DU015-010----
<b>Site Type</b>	Enclosure
<b>Legal Status</b>	Recorded Monument; listed in the SMR
<b>Townland</b>	Kinsaley
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721457, 742277
<b>Description (HEV)</b>	Situated in low-lying tillage to the east of St Doulagh's Church (DU015-009001-). An aerial photograph taken in 1971 (FSI 403/2) shows a cropmark of a circular single-ditched enclosure (diameter c.40m). It may be a ploughed-out ringfort. Not visible at ground level.
<b>Source</b>	HEV [online]. Available at: <a href="https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/">https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/</a> [Accessed: 28.07.24].

<b>Reference No.</b>	DU015-011----
<b>Site Type</b>	Ring-ditch
<b>Legal Status</b>	Recorded Monument; listed in the SMR
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs

<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721464, 741997
<b>Description (HEV)</b>	In low-lying terrain under tillage located to the east of St Doulagh's church (DU015-009001-). An aerial photograph taken in 1971 (FSI 450/449) shows a cropmark of a ring feature (diameter c.20m). Visible on Bing in 2015. Not visible at ground level.
<b>Source</b>	HEV. Available at: <a href="https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/">https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/</a> [Accessed: 28.07.24].

<b>Reference No.</b>	DU015-144----
<b>Site Type</b>	Ring-ditch
<b>Legal Status</b>	Listed in the SMR
<b>Townland</b>	Springhill
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	720758, 742470
<b>Description (HEV)</b>	Located in large arable field close to the field's east boundary, c.460m northwest of St Doulagh's Church (DU015-009001-). The ring-ditch is visible on Google Earth imagery (24 June 2018) and on Apple maps (June 2018). The site is circular in plan (external diameter c.12.3m) defined by a ditch (width c.1.4m). There is no evidence for an entrance gap through the ditch. There are a significant number of other enclosures and ring-ditches to the west located in the same field.
<b>Source</b>	HEV. Available at: <a href="https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/">https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/</a> [Accessed: 28.07.24].

<b>Reference No.</b>	DU015-147----
<b>Site Type</b>	Earthwork
<b>Legal Status</b>	Listed in the SMR
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721408, 741919
<b>Description (HEV)</b>	In tillage field. Circular-shaped cropmark (diameter c.34m) visible on Apple Maps orthoimage and Google Earth orthoimages.
<b>Source</b>	HEV. Available at: <a href="https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/">https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/</a> [Accessed: 28.07.24].

<b>Reference No.</b>	DU015-148----
<b>Site Type</b>	Earthwork
<b>Legal Status</b>	Listed in the SMR
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721547, 741955
<b>Description (HEV)</b>	In tillage field. Circular-shaped cropmark (diameter c.27m) visible on Apple Maps orthoimage and faint outline of cropmark visible on Digital Globe orthoimage taken between 2011–13.

**Source**

HEV. Available at: <https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/> [Accessed: 28.07.24].

## Appendix 2: Architectural Heritage Assets

<b>Reference Nos.</b>	RMP DU015-009001-; RPS 0459; NIAH 11350016
<b>Site Type</b>	Church/chapel
<b>Name</b>	St Doulagh's Church of Ireland Church
<b>Legal Status</b>	Recorded Monument; Protected Structure listed in the SMR and NIAH Building Survey
<b>Rating (NIAH)</b>	National
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>Categories of Special Interest</b>	Archaeological, Architectural, Artistic, Social, Technical
<b>Date</b>	1860–1865
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721054, 742100
<b>Description (RPS)</b>	Medieval stone church with tower (with nineteenth century interventions). Set within graveyard with stone cross at entrance on road and two holy wells in adjoining lands.
<b>Description (NIAH)</b>	Dressed limestone church, built 1864, with three bays to side elevation of nave and single-bay chancel attached to east. Incorporates earlier church and tower, built in twelfth and fifteenth centuries, attached to south-east. Set in graveyard. Church restored by Lord Talbot to design by architect W.H. Lynn.
<b>Sources</b>	FCC RPS. Available at: <a href="https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/record-of-protected-structures-and-acas-2023-2029.pdf">https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/record-of-protected-structures-and-acas-2023-2029.pdf</a> [Accessed: 15.08.24]. NIAH Building Survey. Available at: <a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11350016/saint-doolaghs-church-balgriffin-saintdoolaghs-saint-doolaghs-dublin">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11350016/saint-doolaghs-church-balgriffin-saintdoolaghs-saint-doolaghs-dublin</a> [Accessed: 15.08.24].

<b>Reference Nos.</b>	RMP DU015-009003-; RPS 0459
<b>Site Type</b>	Ritual site – holy well
<b>Name</b>	St Catherine's Well
<b>Legal Status</b>	Recorded Monument; Protected Structure; listed in the SMR
<b>Rating (NIAH)</b>	Regional
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721074, 742162
<b>Description (RPS)</b>	St Doulagh's Well is enclosed in an octagonal building, St Catherine's Well is within a rectangular vaulted building.
<b>Source</b>	FCC RPS. Available at: <a href="https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/record-of-protected-structures-and-acas-2023-2029.pdf">https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/record-of-protected-structures-and-acas-2023-2029.pdf</a> [Accessed: 15.08.24].

<b>Reference Nos.</b>	RMP DU015-009003-; RPS 0459; NIAH 11350017
<b>Site Type</b>	Holy well
<b>Name</b>	St Doolagh's Well



<b>Legal Status</b>	Recorded Monument; Protected Structure listed in the SMR and NIAH Building Survey
<b>Rating (NIAH)</b>	National
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>Categories of Special Interest</b>	Archaeological, Architectural, Artistic, Social
<b>Date</b>	1200–1400
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721072, 742150
<b>Description (RPS)</b>	St Doulagh's Well is enclosed in an octagonal building, St Catherine's Well is within a rectangular vaulted building.
<b>Description (NIAH)</b>	Holy well surrounded by random rubble limestone octagonal structure, c.1300, restored c.1990. WALLS: Random rubble limestone. OPENINGS: Square-headed openings to gable end; pointed opening with cast-iron gate within.
<b>Sources</b>	FCC RPS. Available at: <a href="https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/record-of-protected-structures-and-acas-2023-2029.pdf">https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/record-of-protected-structures-and-acas-2023-2029.pdf</a> [Accessed: 15.08.24]. NIAH Building Survey. Available at: <a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11350017/saint-doolaghs-well-saintdoolaghs-saint-doolaghs-dublin">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11350017/saint-doolaghs-well-saintdoolaghs-saint-doolaghs-dublin</a> [Accessed: 15.08.24].

<b>Reference Nos.</b>	RPS 0461; NIAH 11350018
<b>Site Type</b>	Gate lodge
<b>Name</b>	St Doolagh's Park
<b>Legal Status</b>	Protected Structure; listed in the NIAH Building Survey
<b>Rating (NIAH)</b>	Regional
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>Categories of Special Interest</b>	Architectural, Artistic
<b>Date</b>	1840–1860
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721133, 742149
<b>Description (RPS)</b>	Nineteenth-century former Gate lodge to Saint Doolagh's Park (now in separate ownership).
<b>Description (NIAH)</b>	Detached three-bay single-storey gate lodge, c.1850. Extensions c.1980 to north and east. Set behind entrance gates, comprising cast-iron double entrance gates and single pedestrian gates set in ashlar piers. Flanked by curved ashlar plinth walls with cast-iron railings, terminated by ashlar piers. ROOF: Double-pitched and hipped; slate with terracotta ridge tiles; single rendered chimney stack. WALLS: Nap rendered. OPENINGS: Segmental headed windows; rendered reveals; granite cills; replacement uPVC windows; segmental headed door; recessed opening; timber and glazed door.

<b>Sources</b>	FCC RPS. Available at: <a href="https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/record-of-protected-structures-and-acas-2023-2029.pdf">https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/record-of-protected-structures-and-acas-2023-2029.pdf</a> [Accessed: 15.08.24]. NIAH Building Survey. Available at: <a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11350018/saint-doolaghs-park-saintdoolaghs-saint-doolaghs-dublin">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11350018/saint-doolaghs-park-saintdoolaghs-saint-doolaghs-dublin</a> [Accessed: 20.08.24].
----------------	---

<b>Reference Nos.</b>	RPS 461; NIAH 11350019
<b>Site Type</b>	Country house
<b>Name</b>	Saint Doolagh's Park
<b>Legal Status</b>	Protected Structure; listed in the NIAH Building Survey
<b>Rating (NIAH)</b>	Regional
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>Categories of Special Interest</b>	Architectural, Artistic
<b>Date</b>	1840–1860
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721277, 742011
<b>Description (RPS)</b>	Nineteenth-century five-bay two-storey house and walled garden (no longer private residence, now a nursing home).
<b>Description (NIAH)</b>	Detached five-bay two-storey over basement country house, c.1850, with advanced central bay having projecting entrance porch. Pierced balustrade conceals the basement and continues to the walled garden. Curved corridor to rear right-hand side leading to former conservatory, c.1890, now demolished. Former home of the painter Nathaniel Hone the Younger.  ROOF: Hidden behind parapet wall with two nap rendered corniced chimney stacks. WALLS: Nap rendered with quoins and granite entrance porch; cornice and string course; central three bays to rear in a shallow bow. OPENINGS: Square headed openings with nap rendered architrave and bracket cornice; granite sills; timber sash windows.
<b>Sources</b>	FCC RPS. Available at: <a href="https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/record-of-protected-structures-and-acas-2023-2029.pdf">https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/record-of-protected-structures-and-acas-2023-2029.pdf</a> [Accessed: 15.08.24]. NIAH Building Survey. Available at: <a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11350019/saint-doolaghs-park-saintdoolaghs-saint-doolaghs-dublin">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11350019/saint-doolaghs-park-saintdoolaghs-saint-doolaghs-dublin</a> [Accessed: 21.08.24].

<b>Reference No.</b>	NIAH 2501
<b>Site Type</b>	Historic garden
<b>Name</b>	Saint Doolagh's Park
<b>Legal Status</b>	Listed in the NIAH Garden Survey
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721216, 742001
<b>Description (NIAH)</b>	Visibility on current OS: Buildings indicated, not named.

	<p>Initial Overview: The site footprint is visible and the boundary defined, with no significant development.</p> <p>Architectural Features: Principal building and buildings of indeterminate purpose.</p> <p>Movement within site: The entrances and drive position remain the same; no avenues or woodland walks.</p> <p>Landscape features: Parkland, formal garden, kitchen/walled and productive gardens</p>
<b>Sources</b>	NIAH Garden Survey. Available at: <a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/site/2501/st-doolaghs-park-balgriffin-co-dublin">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/site/2501/st-doolaghs-park-balgriffin-co-dublin</a> [Accessed: 21.08.24].

<b>Reference Nos.</b>	RPS 462; NIAH 11350029
<b>Site Type</b>	Milestone/milepost
<b>Legal Status</b>	Protected Structure; listed in the NIAH Building Survey
<b>Rating (NIAH)</b>	Regional
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>Categories of Special Interest</b>	Architectural, Artistic, Social, Technical
<b>Date</b>	1825–1875
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721059, 741950
<b>Description (RPS)</b>	Nineteenth-century cast-iron milestone in entrance wall to Lime Hill House.
<b>Description (NIAH)</b>	Cast-iron milestone, c.1850, set within a granite surround. Inscription reads 'GPO-Dublin-6-Malahide-3'.
<b>Sources</b>	<p>FCC RPS. Available at: <a href="https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/record-of-protected-structures-and-acas-2023-2029.pdf">https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/record-of-protected-structures-and-acas-2023-2029.pdf</a> [Accessed: 15.08.24].</p> <p>NIAH Building Survey. Available at: <a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11350029/saintdoolaghs-saint-doolaghs-dublin">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11350029/saintdoolaghs-saint-doolaghs-dublin</a> [Accessed: 21.08.24].</p>

<b>Reference No.</b>	NIAH 11350027
<b>Site Type</b>	Gate lodge
<b>Name</b>	Lime Hill House
<b>Legal Status</b>	Listed in the NIAH Building Survey
<b>Rating (NIAH)</b>	Regional
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>Categories of Special Interest</b>	Architectural
<b>Date</b>	1880–1900
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721049, 741940
<b>Description (NIAH)</b>	<p>Three-bay single-storey gate lodge, c.1895.</p> <p>ROOF: Hipped slate roof; single chimney stack with terracotta ridge tiles.</p> <p>WALLS: Pebble dash; rendered.</p>

	OPENINGS: Square headed; rendered reveals; early twentieth-century timber casement windows; simple timber panelled door.
<b>Sources</b>	NIAH Building Survey. Available at: <a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11350027/lime-hill-saintdoolaghs-saint-doolaghs-dublin">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11350027/lime-hill-saintdoolaghs-saint-doolaghs-dublin</a> [Accessed: 21.08.24].

<b>Reference No.</b>	NIAH 11350015
<b>Site Type</b>	House
<b>Name</b>	Lime Hill House
<b>Legal Status</b>	Listed in the NIAH Building Survey
<b>Rating (NIAH)</b>	Regional
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>Categories of Special Interest</b>	Architectural, Artistic
<b>Date</b>	1780–1820
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	720750, 742148
<b>Description (NIAH)</b>	<p>Detached double-pile three-bay two-storey over basement house, c.1790, with projecting central bow to rear elevation. Single-storey addition to west elevation, converted to conservatory c.1995.</p> <p>ROOF: M-profile; hipped; slate roof with terracotta ridge tiles.</p> <p>WALLS: Pebble dashed.</p> <p>OPENINGS: Square-headed; rendered reveals; limestone sills; original sash windows; 6/6 pane and tri-partite windows; door set in depressed segmental headed doorcase with timber consoles on pilasters; sidelights; original timber panelled door.</p>
<b>Sources</b>	NIAH Building Survey. Available at: <a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11350015/lime-hill-saintdoolaghs-saint-doolaghs-dublin">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11350015/lime-hill-saintdoolaghs-saint-doolaghs-dublin</a> [Accessed: 21.08.24].

<b>Reference No.</b>	NIAH 2488
<b>Site Type</b>	Historic garden
<b>Name</b>	Lime Hill House
<b>Legal Status</b>	Listed in the NIAH Garden Survey
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	720749, 742079
<b>Description (NIAH)</b>	<p>Visibility on current OS: Buildings indicated, not named.</p> <p>Initial Overview: The site footprint is visible and the boundary defined, with no significant development.</p> <p>Architectural Features: Principal building and buildings of indeterminate purpose.</p> <p>Movement within site: The entrances and drive position remain the same; no avenues or woodland walks.</p> <p>Landscape features: Parkland, formal garden, kitchen/walled and productive gardens</p>

<b>Sources</b>	NIAH Garden Survey. Available at: <a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/site/2488/lime-hill-house-balgriffin-co-dublin">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/site/2488/lime-hill-house-balgriffin-co-dublin</a> [Accessed: 21.08.24].
----------------	---

<b>Reference No.</b>	NIAH 11350020
<b>Site Type</b>	House
<b>Name</b>	Wellfield House (formerly St Doolagh's Lodge)
<b>Legal Status</b>	Listed in the NIAH Building Survey
<b>Rating (NIAH)</b>	Regional
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>Categories of Special Interest</b>	Architectural
<b>Date</b>	1790–1810
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721116, 741886
<b>Description (NIAH)</b>	Detached three-bay two-storey rubble stone house, c.1800, with brick dressings. Now derelict.
<b>Sources</b>	NIAH Building Survey. Available at: <a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11350020/wellfield-house-saintdoolaghs-saint-doolaghs-dublin">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11350020/wellfield-house-saintdoolaghs-saint-doolaghs-dublin</a> [Accessed: 21.08.24].

<b>Reference No.</b>	RPS 668; NIAH 11350021
<b>Site Type</b>	House
<b>Name</b>	Wellfield House (formerly St Doolagh's Lodge)
<b>Legal Status</b>	Protected Structure; listed in the NIAH Building Survey
<b>Rating (NIAH)</b>	Regional
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>Categories of Special Interest</b>	Architectural, Artistic
<b>Date</b>	1780–1800
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721075, 741833
<b>Description (RPS)</b>	Late eighteenth or early nineteenth century five-bay two-storey house with belvedere.
<b>Description (NIAH)</b>	Detached five-bay two-storey house, c.1790, with portico entrance, bowed end bays. Return and belvedere to rear. ROOF: Double-pitched slate roof to front with perpendicular M-profile hipped roof to rear; nap rendered chimney stacks with clay pots; T-shaped plan. WALLS: Pebbledash to front; nap rendered elsewhere. OPENINGS: Square-headed; rendered reveals; granite sills; replacement 6/6 timber sash windows; fluted doric granite portico; moulded door surround; timber panelled door; centrally opening doors to side.
<b>Sources</b>	FCC RPS. Available at: <a href="https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/record-of-protected-structures-and-acas-2023-2029.pdf">https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/record-of-protected-structures-and-acas-2023-2029.pdf</a> [Accessed: 15.08.24].



	NIAH Building Survey. Available at: <a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11350021/wellfield-house-saintdoolaghs-saint-doolaghs-dublin">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11350021/wellfield-house-saintdoolaghs-saint-doolaghs-dublin</a> [Accessed: 21.08.24].
--	---

<b>Reference No.</b>	RPS 790; NIAH 11350011
<b>Site Type</b>	House
<b>Name</b>	Bohomer (formerly Saint Doulagh's)
<b>Legal Status</b>	Protected Structure; listed in the NIAH Building Survey
<b>Rating (NIAH)</b>	Regional
<b>Townland</b>	Bohammer
<b>Categories of Special Interest</b>	Architectural, Artistic
<b>Date</b>	1810–1850
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721004, 742393
<b>Description (RPS)</b>	Eighteenth century five-bay two-storey house, gate lodge, walled garden and outbuildings.
<b>Description (NIAH)</b>	<p>Detached five-bay two-storey house, c.1830, with return to rear. Central projecting Doric entrance porch to east elevation, c.1840. uPVC conservatory to south elevation, c.1990.</p> <p>ROOF: Hidden behind parapet wall with two nap rendered chimney stacks at gable ends.</p> <p>WALLS: Nap rendered with a nap rendered moulded cornice and quoins. uPVC conservatory, c.1990, to right hand side elevation.</p> <p>OPENINGS: Square-headed windows with nap rendered moulded architraves, stone sills and 6/6 timber sash windows. Projecting entrance porch with timber flat panels and glazing to sides and quarter engaged, nap rendered Doric columns.</p>
<b>Sources</b>	<p>FCC RPS. Available at: <a href="https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/record-of-protected-structures-and-acas-2023-2029.pdf">https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-03/record-of-protected-structures-and-acas-2023-2029.pdf</a> [Accessed: 15.08.24].</p> <p>NIAH Building Survey. Available at: <a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11350011/bohomer-bohammer-saint-doolaghs-dublin">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11350011/bohomer-bohammer-saint-doolaghs-dublin</a> [Accessed: 21.08.24].</p>

<b>Reference No.</b>	NIAH 11350012
<b>Site Type</b>	Gate lodge
<b>Name</b>	Bohomer (formerly Saint Doulagh's)
<b>Legal Status</b>	Listed in the NIAH Building Survey
<b>Rating (NIAH)</b>	Regional
<b>Townland</b>	Bohammer
<b>Categories of Special Interest</b>	Architectural
<b>Date</b>	1810–1850
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721099, 742289

<b>Description (NIAH)</b>	<p>Detached three-bay single-storey gable-fronted gate lodge, c.1830. Single-bay extension and single-bay recessed entrance porch to west, c.1970.</p> <p>ROOF: Double pitched slate roof with a nap rendered chimney stack. WALLS: Nap rendered with a moulded string course.</p> <p>OPENINGS: Segmental headed; recessed panels to openings. Square headed diamond timber casement windows and a timber door.</p>
<b>Sources</b>	<p>NIAH Building Survey. Available at: <a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11350012/bohomer-bohammer-saint-doolaghs-dublin">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11350012/bohomer-bohammer-saint-doolaghs-dublin</a> [Accessed: 21.08.24].</p>

## Appendix 3: Archaeological Investigations

<b>Licence No.</b>	E00598
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>DIER Ref.</b>	1989:021
<b>Consultant</b>	D.L. Swan, Heritage International
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721077, 742148
<b>Summary of Findings (DIER)</b>	<p>Archaeological excavations were undertaken at St Doulagh's Church in September 1989 as part of a continuing conservation and restoration project. This work was concentrated in three areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The area surrounding and in the immediate vicinity of the baptistery (RMP DU015-009004-; RPS 0459; NIAH 113500117) and the vault containing the holy well (RMP DU015-009003-; RPS 0459).</li> <li>2. The line of a long trench, opened mechanically and without archaeological supervision, which intersected the site more or less diagonally.</li> <li>3. The area within the present church yard (RMP DU015-009006-).</li> </ol> <p>1. Showed signs of considerable disturbance in all cuttings, and yielded only one significant feature. This consisted of a carefully constructed bath or trough, measuring 1.8m by 0.75m with a depth of 0.6m (RMP DU015-009004-; RPS 0459; NIAH 113500117). It was fed through a channel with the overflow of water from the spring inside the baptistery, and this flow in turn could be controlled to feed through a sluice into the underground vault which also contained the holy well (RMP DU015-009003-; RPS 0459).</p> <p>From this area a number of coins and tokens were recovered, including some from the spring of the baptistery, of which the oldest was a posthumously minted silver penny of Henry VIII. Small quantities of pottery fragments of all dates from the thirteenth to fourteenth centuries onwards were recovered from many cuttings here, as well as small quantities of slag.</p> <p>2. The line of trenching which had been opened mechanically revealed archaeologically significant deposits in a number of areas, including stratified occupation debris, indications of both inner and outer enclosing ditches, and an area of burial. This latter contained at least six extended human burials in very shallow grave pits, directly beneath the plough-soil. These were adult burials. No artefacts were recovered, nor was any pottery noted in this area. Some slag was, however, identified as associated with the occupation area.</p> <p>3. Trenching within the modern churchyard (RMP DU015-009006-) showed evidence that part, at least, of the accumulated deposits of burials here had been almost completely removed, thus lowering the ground level considerably. Only the bases of the grave trenches survived, and in most cases any human remains recovered were disarticulated and extremely disturbed. It is likely that this activity was associated with the extensive reconstruction works which took place during the latter part of the nineteenth century.</p>
<b>Sources</b>	<p>DIER. Available at: <a href="https://excavations.ie/report/1989/Dublin/0000855/">https://excavations.ie/report/1989/Dublin/0000855/</a> [Accessed: 22.08.24].</p> <p>Heritage Maps: Dublin County Heritage. Available at: <a href="https://heritagemaps.ie/documents/Therefore_ArchaeologyReports/E000508.pdf">https://heritagemaps.ie/documents/Therefore_ArchaeologyReports/E000508.pdf</a> [Accessed: 22.08.24].</p>

<b>Licence No.</b>	E00598 ext.
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>DIER Ref.</b>	1990:031
<b>Consultant</b>	D.L. Swan, Heritage International
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721058, 742100
<b>Summary of Findings (DIER)</b>	<p>Two further periods of excavation were undertaken at this site during 1990 (see 1989:021). These were necessitated by the removal of the tiled flooring of the chancel of the church (RMP DU015-009001-; RPS 0459; NIAH 11350016) and the disturbance of the underlying deposits in March 1990, and by the opening of a drainage trench from north of the vault across the length of the site after the crop had been lifted in August 1990.</p> <p>The deposits beneath the old tiling of the chancel had been totally disturbed, to a depth of almost 0.75m, and much disarticulated bone, together with mortar and rubble was encountered. Two fragments of roof tiling were recovered, one deeply scored and both with traces of green glaze on their outer surfaces.</p> <p>An opportunity was afforded to examine some details of the construction of the walls of the early chancel, as sections were opened along their inner faces exposing the foundation courses. Along the south wall, a foundation trench 0.55m deep had been cut into the boulder clay, at the base of which a mantling of pebbles was laid. Above this, a rough paving of large, flat stones had been laid, forming the base of the wall. On this paving, a foundation of rough, uncoursed masonry rose for 0.4m to 0.45m, above which was the finely coursed masonry of the wall proper. The remnants of an early burial were set into the boulder clay at the lowest level, predating the construction of this wall.</p> <p>The inner face of the north wall of the chancel had been partly dismantled to allow for a large recess with a pointed arch, which had been set into the thickness of the wall. Clearance here revealed a solid masonry plinth at a depth of 0.52m below the old flooring, upon which a complete skeleton was laid. The skull, however, had been set into a recess, consisting of a single stone with a rectangular section cut through its mass, placed in an upright position on the plinth, so that the head of the burial was completely protected, and only the face could have been viewed prior to burial. This is an unusual variation of a common, late medieval type of formal burial.</p> <p>The section of the trench cut to the north of the vault revealed a well-defined ditch at a point 12.8m from the vault face. This ditch is best interpreted as part of the enclosure revealed to the south of the site in last year's excavations.</p>
<b>Sources</b>	DIER. Available at: <a href="https://excavations.ie/report/1990/Dublin/0000966/">https://excavations.ie/report/1990/Dublin/0000966/</a> [Accessed: 22.08.24].

<b>Licence No.</b>	99E0470
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>DIER Ref.</b>	2001:453
<b>Consultant</b>	Georgina Scally, Margaret Gowen & Company
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721104, 742098
<b>Summary of Findings (DIER)</b>	An archaeological assessment in advance of the North Fringe Sewer Project was required owing to the proximity of the pipeline to St Doulagh's Church. Two trenches 9m long were excavated in the grass verge in front of the main entrance to St Doulagh's. In no trench were finds, features or structures of any archaeological significance uncovered.

<b>Sources</b>	<p>DIER. Available at: <a href="https://excavations.ie/report/2001/Dublin/0006391/">https://excavations.ie/report/2001/Dublin/0006391/</a> [Accessed: 22.08.24].</p> <p>Heritage Maps: Dublin County Heritage. Available at: <a href="https://heritagemaps.ie/documents/Therefore_ArchaeologyReports/99E0470.pdf">https://heritagemaps.ie/documents/Therefore_ArchaeologyReports/99E0470.pdf</a> [Accessed: 22.08.24].</p>
<b>Licence No.</b>	12E0185
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>DIER Ref.</b>	2012:247
<b>Consultant</b>	Melanie McQuade, Archaeological Development Services
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721106, 742062
<b>Summary of Findings (DIER)</b>	<p>Twelve investigative slit trenches were mechanically excavated at intervals along the R107 Malahide Road between St Doolagh's Nursing Home and Streamstown, on the route of a proposed new water main. The test trenches averaged 6m by 0.7m and were 1.2m deep. Their locations were determined by the contractor and excavation was monitored. Geophysical investigations previously carried out around St Doulagh's church identified several linear features extending beyond the northern, western and southern limits of the existing church grounds. These features were not identified during monitoring, but they may survive under the 0.5m-thick modern road surface in the area outside the test trenches.</p> <p>Four of the trenches uncovered features of possible archaeological significance. The trench located directly east of St Doulagh's Church revealed a possible structural feature. This comprised two roughly hewn limestone blocks and a sandstone piece that were laid end to end. Given the size of the trench, it was difficult to ascertain whether this was definitely part of an <i>in situ</i> structure; however, the presence of two worked stones is noteworthy.</p> <p>A post-medieval clay deposit was uncovered 0.62m below present ground in a trench located c.4m south of the entrance to the gatehouse of Bohomer House. The trench ran parallel to a field boundary on the west side of the Malahide Road and the deposit, which was over 0.6m deep, may represent back-fill of a field boundary ditch, possibly associated with road-widening works. Any such road works probably predate 1837, since the existing line of the road is unaltered from that depicted on the first edition OS six-inch map.</p> <p>Two large north-south-oriented, subsoil-cut linear features were partially exposed in Trenches 9 and 11. These trenches were located midway between the entrance to Abbeville estate and the Malahide Road/Feltrim Road junction and c.28m south of the entrance to Streamstown House, on the eastern side of the Malahide Road. Both trenches ran east-west and subsoil lay at 0.4m and 0.68m respectively. The lack of finds and the fact that the features were only partially uncovered within the trenches, meant that it was not possible to ascertain their nature or date. They may represent backfilled trenches of demolished roadside walls or the position of former tree or hedge lines.</p>
<b>Sources</b>	<p>DIER. Available at: <a href="https://excavations.ie/report/2012/Dublin/0023219/">https://excavations.ie/report/2012/Dublin/0023219/</a> [Accessed: 22.08.24].</p> <p>Heritage Maps: Dublin County Heritage. Available at: <a href="https://heritagemaps.ie/documents/Therefore_ArchaeologyReports/12E0185.pdf">https://heritagemaps.ie/documents/Therefore_ArchaeologyReports/12E0185.pdf</a> [Accessed: 22.08.24].</p>



<b>Licence No.</b>	15E0329
<b>Townland</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>DIER Ref.</b>	2015:274
<b>Consultant</b>	Paul Duffy, Resurrecting Monuments and Grassroots Archaeology
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	721048, 742156
<b>Summary of Findings (DIER)</b>	<p>A targeted test excavation was carried out within the grounds of St Doulagh's church (RMP DU015-009001-) on the Malahide Road by the Resurrecting Monuments community archaeology group from 25 July to 1 August 2015. The excavation was funded under the Irish Research Council's 'New Foundations Grant Scheme' and the project was coordinated by Grassroots Archaeology in partnership with Professor Gabriel Cooney of UCD, supported by Fingal County Council. The site is located in the townland of Saintdoolaghs situated approximately 4.8km south of Malahide. Whilst the current St Doulagh's Church dates from the nineteenth century, the attached buildings (RMP DU015-009001-) and graveyard (RMP DU015-009006-) are of medieval date.</p> <p>A magnetic gradiometry and electrical resistivity survey of the lands surrounding the church was commissioned by the Friends of St Doulagh's in 2009 and carried out by Ken Nicholls of Target Geophysics under licence 09R165. The survey recorded a substantial area of archaeological activity interpreted as comprising of a network of enclosure remains, pits, gullies, and associated features. The core area of activity is for the most part defined by a broad curving ditch interpreted as representing an early medieval ecclesiastical enclosure. This feature was assigned the SMR number DU015-009005- and was believed to correspond to a V-shaped section of ditch identified to the south of the church by Leo Swan in 1990 (DIER 1990:031). The Resurrecting Monuments excavation was intended to test the geophysical anomaly DU015-009005- thought to represent the outer enclosing element of the ecclesiastical enclosure.</p> <p>A 1.5m by 8m test trench was opened over the anomaly in green field to the north of the church. The trench was hand-excavated and all arising soil was passed through 30mm sieves. The week-long excavation revealed evidence of three main phases of activity on the site. The excavation uncovered a V-shaped ditch approximately 1.2m deep and 2.7m wide. The basal fill of this ditch, a clayey silt with occasional angular stones (C08), was 1.22m deep and 2m wide. No artefactual material was recovered from this fill. Some cockle shells and molluscs in addition to two small fragments of probable caproid rib were extracted from the sieved soil samples. One of these bone fragments was sent for C<sup>14</sup> dating and returned a date of BP 1122+/- 42, or cal. AD 853–935 (UBA-30540). The basal fill C08 was partially overlain on the southern side of the ditch by a thin layer of silty, gritty clay (C06) 0.23m thick. A charred free-threshing wheat grain was dated from this fill and returned a date of BP 204+/- 21 or cal. AD 1790–1831 (UBA-30539). However, this seed was possibly a contaminant from an upper fill which made its way into the sample during the collection of bulk soil.</p> <p>The ditch was sealed by a layer of compact fine sandy clay (C04) 0.4m deep with some angular stone inclusions. A sherd of Leinster Cooking Ware and a sherd of Dublin-Type fine ware were recovered from this layer, in addition to a small perforated bead of white soft stone. A total of 139 animal bones were recovered from this layer. The bones were variable in condition but are mostly well-preserved or slightly weathered with occasional fragments being heavily eroded and a few burnt to a white chalky appearance from prolonged contact with fire. Of the 20 identifiable fragments, the remains of cattle and sheep are equally well-represented and most of the large/medium-sized mammal fragments may also be of cattle and sheep. Some fragments exhibit cut and chop marks indicative of butchery and food waste.</p>

	<p>A layer of sandy material C007 0.16m deep, with some pebble inclusions, was identified extending 1.8m upslope south of the ditch cut. This deposit overlay the subsoil and appeared to run parallel to the ditch cut. This feature is likely to represent the remnants of an internal bank associated with the ditch. This may correspond to the traces of a bank which were visible to north of the graveyard in 1977 (SMR file). A total of 26 bones were uncovered from this material. Most of these were small indeterminate fragments of bone from a medium-sized animal, such as pig or sheep/goat. Two sheep/goat bones are identified; a scapula of a lamb less than six months old and a molar from a fully adult sheep.</p> <p>In addition to a range of post-medieval ceramics, six sherds of medieval ceramics were uncovered from the topsoil. These included a single sherd of Saintonge ware.</p>
<b>Sources</b>	<p>DIER. Available at: <a href="https://excavations.ie/report/2015/Dublin/0024753/">https://excavations.ie/report/2015/Dublin/0024753/</a> [Accessed: 22.08.24].</p>

<b>Licence No.</b>	17E0378
<b>Townland</b>	Burgage
<b>DIER Ref.</b>	2017:487
<b>Consultant</b>	Johnny Ryan, Archaeology Plan
<b>Coordinates (ITM)</b>	720836, 741746
<b>Summary of Findings (DIER)</b>	<p>A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out for an extension to Balgriffin Cemetery, Dublin 17. One archaeological feature was identified during the topsoil stripping in the area of the proposed carpark. This was a nineteenth-century culvert and an associated smaller stone-lined field drain, running east-west. This culvert and drain were most likely associated with the nineteenth-century house, Sea View, of which no other remains were found.</p>
<b>Sources</b>	<p>DIER. Available at: <a href="https://excavations.ie/report/2017/Dublin/0026740/">https://excavations.ie/report/2017/Dublin/0026740/</a> [Accessed: 22.08.24].</p> <p>Heritage Maps: Dublin County Heritage. Available at: <a href="https://heritagemaps.ie/documents/Therefore_ArchaeologyReports/17E0378_1.pdf">https://heritagemaps.ie/documents/Therefore_ArchaeologyReports/17E0378_1.pdf</a> [Accessed: 22.08.24].</p>

## Appendix 4: Extracts from the Irish Folklore Commission Schools' Collection

<b>School</b>	Baldoyle Convent (Roll No. 11883)
<b>Teacher</b>	Sr Augustine
<b>Collector</b>	Maureen Murphy (Pupil)
<b>Informant</b>	Mrs Murphy, Baldoyle, County Dublin
<b>Title</b>	A Holy Well (28 October 1937)
<b>Detail</b>	<p>At the time of Cromwell there was a Catholic Church called St Dolough's near Raheny, it was taken from the Catholics. There was also a monastery where monks lived; they were banished out of it. They came to a place called Balgriffin Park and built a Catholic Church.</p> <p>One night a well was formed by a miracle. Some holy person appeared to one of the monks and told him that the well should be called Saint Catherine's well.</p> <p>The well is in the shape of a square. There are three windows in the wall, which surrounds it one at each side and one in the back; in the middle of the square there is a cement hole in the shape of a boiler. This contains the water. There are a couple of steps going down into the well, and the people can go round the well by walking on the stone because it is a couple of feet wide.</p> <p>Many a person with sore eyes was cured by the water of the well. There is also a place in the field which is called Saint Patrick's bed; at certain times of the year water comes into it. beside the well there is a bush or tree.</p>
<b>Reference</b>	The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0792, pp.136–37. UCD: National Folklore Collection.
<b>Source</b>	dúchas.ie. Available at: <a href="https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498789/4385667">https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498789/4385667</a> [Accessed: 04.10.24].

<b>School</b>	Kinsealy
<b>Teacher</b>	C. MacDomhnaill
<b>Informant</b>	William Redmond
<b>Title</b>	St Catherine's Well
<b>Detail</b>	<p>St Catherine's well is situated on the townland of St Dolough's. It lies about one hundred yards off the Malahide Road. It is quite convenient to the church and graveyard. To approach the well one has to go down a number of steps on the wall. And when he arrives, he finds himself in a stone roofed building. On the south side he sees a crude altar where the priests used to say mass in the penal when they were forbidden by the law to do so.</p> <p>It is well worth a visit to this historic place as there is another well close at hand called St. Dolough's well and the church also has its history as it is of roof to. St. Catherine's well at the present time it is filled with water, which was used for given cattle drinks but in summer time one can reach the inside without difficulties. There is a cure for sore eyes in the water of one of the wells.</p>
<b>Reference</b>	The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0792, p.206. UCD: National Folklore Collection.
<b>Source</b>	dúchas.ie. Available at: <a href="https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498820/4385746/4498823">https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498820/4385746/4498823</a> [Accessed: 04.10.24].

<b>School</b>	Kinsealy
<b>Teacher</b>	C. MacDomhnaill
<b>Informant</b>	Thomas Saunders
<b>Title</b>	Family Names
<b>Detail</b>	<p>Many of the people in Kinsealy and the surrounding towns belong to very old families. Their ancestors go back to the times of the Norse invaders and even before to the time of the O'Neill's and O'Donnell's.</p> <p>When Hugh O'Neill came to Dublin to a conference, he used to stay at Kinsealy. Some of his followers stayed behind and got some land in Kinsealy and lived there ever after.</p> <p>Next comes the Fagan's a very old family. One of them erected St Catherine's Well, which stands about fifty yards from St Dolough's church. The well is about five feet under the ground surrounded by a wall. Fagan's name is on a stone ornament in the well.</p> <p>Here I will give you a list of the families in Kinsealy: Brophy's, Carthy's, Durnin's, Kane's, Fagan's, Caul's, Grime's, Murphy's, Rielly's, Lynch's, Ried's, Dunne's, McCann's, Ennis, Donnelly's, McMullen's, Moore's, McKenna's, Quinn's, Barnes, Hickey's, Marron's, O'Tooles, Mongey's.</p>
<b>Reference</b>	The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0792, p.219. UCD: National Folklore Collection.
<b>Source</b>	dúchas.ie. Available at: <a href="https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498820/4385760">https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498820/4385760</a> [Accessed: 04.10.24].

<b>School</b>	Kinsealy
<b>Teacher</b>	C. MacDomhnaill
<b>Informant</b>	William Redmond
<b>Title</b>	Oliver Cromwell
<b>Detail</b>	<p>Cromwell landed in Ringsend near Dublin in August 1649. He had with him an army of Roundheads or Puritans. They came into the harbour psalm singing and quoting the Bible. He sent preachers out to try and make the people fall from their Catholic religion. Near Fairview in 1649, he made Peters, a preacher, tell the people they were to die next day.</p> <p>It was either going or coming from Drogheda that Cromwell robbed St Doloughs Church and put all the people to death. It is said that he took valuable things, such as chalices. He also robbed Kinsealy church and done as he did in St Doloughs.</p> <p>He also captured Malahide castle and a church attached to it. This church proves that the Talbot's were Catholics before Cromwell. He took chalices and the iron roof of the church and killed the belongings.</p>
<b>Reference</b>	The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0792, p.224. UCD: National Folklore Collection.
<b>Source</b>	dúchas.ie. Available at: <a href="https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498820/4385766">https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498820/4385766</a> [Accessed: 04.10.24].

<b>School</b>	Kinsealy C
<b>Teacher</b>	Mrs Garvey
<b>Informant</b>	Micheál Ó Láighléis

<b>Title</b>	Holy Wells
<b>Detail</b>	<p>There are two holy wells in this vicinity. One is situated beside St Dolough's church and the other is in Feltrim. The one at St Dolough's is on a height. It can be seen from the road in a field, on the right-hand side of the road that runs from Malahide to Dublin. St Dolough dedicated the well to St Catherine. There is a cure for sore eyes at it. First you must throw in a pin, rub the water in the eyes and take some away with you. It is not used for household purposes. There is also a wishing well beside it. There are briars and a whitethorn bush growing over the well. About 46 years ago there was a wall built around the well. Years ago, rounds and pilgrimages were made.</p> <p>The well at Feltrim is situated in a field inside an iron gate on the road that leads to Swords. It is dedicated to Our Lady. It is used for household purposes. Years ago, two priests were cured at it one with diabetes and the other with cancer. The well at St Dolough's will only cure sore eyes but the well at Feltrim will cure any disease.</p> <p>The following is a story told in connection with the well at St Dolough's.</p> <p>St Dolough was a witty man and was one day riding his white horse along the road, when he met a young girl carrying a pail of water on her head. Thinking he would play a joke on her; he got off his horse and saluted her and said:</p> <p>Young maid said he,  With the yellow fell  Can you tell me the road to  St Catherine's well  (The young girl replied)  Young man said she,  Upon that white horse  If you get down and eat some grass,  Then you will know by its taste and smell  Which is the road to St Catherine's well.</p>
<b>Reference</b>	The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0792, pp.230–32. UCD: National Folklore Collection.
<b>Source</b>	dúchas.ie. Available at: <a href="https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498829/4385774">https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498829/4385774</a> [Accessed: 04.10.24].

<b>School</b>	Kinsealy C
<b>Teacher</b>	Mrs Garvey
<b>Collector</b>	Peigh Ní Chatháin
<b>Informant</b>	Labhrás Ó Catháin
<b>Title</b>	The Local Patron Saint
<b>Detail</b>	<p>St Dolough is traditionally connected with this district. A church dedicated to him is still in use here. However, it has passed out of Catholic hands and is now used as a Protestant church. Tradition tells us that when this church was wrested from the Catholics a priest prophesised that never should a bell toll there while it remained in Protestant hands. This prophesy has been fulfilled. Never has anyone heard a bell to toll, since it tolled for the last mass which was celebrated there.</p> <p>A cross stands at the entrance to the church. The Protestants in their hatred for the cross had it removed on several occasions. The cross was mysteriously replaced. A man by the name of Noble was engaged on one occasion to remove the cross. He did remove it, but he never regained his proper shape. He was ever after a hunchback.</p>



	The cross was again replaced, but on several occasions, it was again uprooted. It was thrown over a very low wall into an adjoining field, and never has ivy or any other plant grown on that wall since that day.
<b>Reference</b>	The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0792, pp.239–41. UCD: National Folklore Collection.
<b>Source</b>	dúchas.ie. Available at: <a href="https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498829/4385783">https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498829/4385783</a> [Accessed: 04.10.24].

<b>School</b>	Malahide B.
<b>Teacher</b>	M. Ó Haodha
<b>Collector</b>	Anthony Grogan
<b>Title</b>	Local Cures
<b>Detail</b>	<p>There are many kinds of local cures for sickness. One of them is for rheumatism. It is marsh mallows mixed with others ingredients. They are boiled to a jelly and are out into a box to harden like ointment. This is rubbed into the affected part. The marsh mallows is a tall plant with a purple flower on each if its stems.</p> <p>The mullen plant is a cure for Consumption. It is boiled down and give as a drink. It is also a very tall plant and bears a yellow flower.</p> <p>There is a well called Saint Dolough's which is supposed to have cured sore eyes. The people after being cured went and tied bits of cloth on the bushes as a sign that they were cured by the water in the well. The well is still to be seen on the right-hand side of the road going into Dublin. Saint Dolough's is near Balgriffen on the Malahide side.</p>
<b>Reference</b>	The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0791, pp.126–28. UCD: National Folklore Collection.
<b>Source</b>	dúchas.ie. Available at: <a href="https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498689/4385419">https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498689/4385419</a> [Accessed: 04.10.24].

<b>School</b>	Malahide B.
<b>Teacher</b>	M. Ó Haodha
<b>Collector</b>	Christopher Langan
<b>Title</b>	Our Holy Wells
<b>Detail</b>	<p>There is a well near Donabate called Chink Well. There was a great number of children cured from the Whooping-cough by drinking the water. Chink Well is in a big rock. The field in which it is situated is owned by the Portrane Asylum.</p> <p>There is another well in Howth called St Fintan's, which has had a great number of cures. A great number of people come from Dublin to visit it. There is a lone bush over the well and almost every person ties a piece of cloth on the bush. Some people who lived near the well used the water for house use.</p> <p>There is another well in St Dolough's near Balgriffin, which has a great number of cures. Anyone who puts the water to his eyes, and puts a pin in the well is cured.</p> <p>The is a well in Malahide called Sunday's Well because it was not there on a certain Saturday night but was first seen on the following morning. It is just outside the school windows.</p>
<b>Reference</b>	The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0791, pp.157–28. UCD: National Folklore Collection.
<b>Source</b>	dúchas.ie. Available at: <a href="https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498689/4385453">https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4498689/4385453</a> [Accessed: 04.10.24].

## Appendix 5: Fingal Development Plan 2023–2029 – Policies and Objectives in Relation to Cultural and Natural Heritage

Policies and Objectives in Relation to Cultural and Natural Heritage	
Archaeological Heritage	
<b>Policy HCAP2</b>	<b>Importance of the Archaeological Resource</b> Recognise the importance of our archaeological resource and provide appropriate objectives to ensure its appropriate retention, promotion and recording.
<b>Policy HCAP3</b>	<b>Record of Monuments and Places and the Sites and Monuments Record</b> Safeguard archaeological sites, monuments, objects and their settings listed in the RMP, SMR, underwater cultural heritage including protected wrecks and any additional newly discovered archaeological remains.
<b>Policy HCAP4</b>	<b>Preservation In Situ</b> Favour the preservation <i>in-situ</i> (or at a minimum preservation by record) of all sites and features of historical and archaeological interest.
<b>Objective HCAO1</b>	<b>Preservation In Situ</b> Favour the preservation <i>in situ</i> , or at a minimum preservation by record, of archaeological sites, monuments, features or objects in their settings. In securing such preservation the Council will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the NMS of the DHLGH.
<b>Objective HCAO2</b>	<b>Protection of RMPs/SMRs</b> Encourage and promote the appropriate management and maintenance of the County's archaeological heritage, including historical burial grounds and underwater cultural heritage in accordance with conservation principles and best practice guidelines.
<b>Objective HCAO3</b>	<b>Management of Archaeological Resource</b> Encourage and promote the appropriate management and maintenance of the County's archaeological heritage, including historical burial grounds and underwater cultural heritage in accordance with conservation principles and best practice guidelines.
<b>Objective HCAO5</b>	<b>Community Monuments Fund</b> Support the implementation of the CMF in order to ensure the monitoring and adaptation of archaeological monuments and mitigate against damage caused by climate change.
<b>Objective HCAO6</b>	<b>Climate Change and the Archaeological Resource</b> Cooperate with other agencies in the investigation of climate change on archaeological sites and monuments and to develop suitable adaptation measures to strengthen resilience and reduce the vulnerability of archaeological heritage in line with the <i>National Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage 2019</i> .
<b>Objective HCAO9</b>	<b>Archaeology in the Landscape</b> Ensure that in general development will not be permitted which would result in the removal of archaeological monuments with above ground features, or protected wrecks and that this will be especially the case in relation to archaeological monuments which form significant features in the landscape.
<b>Objective HCAO10</b>	<b>Context of Archaeological Monuments</b> Ensure that development within the vicinity of a Recorded Monument or ZoN does not seriously detract from the setting of the feature and is sited and designed appropriately.

<b>Policies and Objectives in Relation to Cultural and Natural Heritage</b>	
<b>Objective HCAO14</b>	<b>Archaeology in Open Space</b> Retain and manage appropriately archaeological monuments within open space areas in or beside developments, ensuring that such monuments are subject to an appropriate CMP, are presented appropriately and are not left vulnerable, whether in the immediate or longer term, to dangers to their physical integrity or possibility of loss of amenity.
<b>Policy HCAP6</b>	<b>Promotion</b> Promote the tourism potential of Fingal's cultural heritage and improve legibility by providing guidance for appropriate interpretation in line with the <i>Fingal Heritage Signage and Trails Guidance 2021</i> .
<b>Policy HCAP7</b>	<b>Community Initiatives</b> Support community initiatives and projects regarding preservation, presentation and access to archaeological heritage and underwater cultural heritage, provided such are compatible with appropriate conservation policies and standards, having regard to the guidance and advice of the DHLGH.
<b>Objective HCAO18</b>	<b>Public Awareness</b> Raise public awareness of the cultural heritage and improve legibility by providing appropriate interpretation in areas, sites, villages, and buildings of archaeological and historic significance.
<b>Objective HCAO19</b>	<b>Community Archaeology Strategy</b> Continue to implement the findings of the Community Archaeology Strategy for Fingal.
<b>Objective HCAO20</b>	<b>Cultural Tourism</b> Support the growth of cultural tourism in the County, including the potential for niche heritage-based tourism products by facilitating the development of heritage events, infrastructure such as heritage trails, walkways and cycleways, and activities such as community excavation.
<b>Objective HCAO21</b>	<b>Climate Change</b> Promote awareness and the appropriate adaptation of Ireland's built and archaeological heritage to deal with the effects of climate change.
<b>Architectural Heritage</b>	
<b>Policy HCAP8</b>	<b>Protection of Architectural Heritage</b> Ensure the conservation, management, protection and enhancement of the architectural heritage of Fingal through the designation of Protected Structures and ACAs, the safeguarding of designed landscapes and historic gardens, and the recognition of structures and elements with no specific statutory designation that contribute positively to the vernacular, industrial, maritime or twentieth century heritage of the County.
<b>Policy HCAP9</b>	<b>Reuse of Architectural Heritage</b> Champion the maintenance, repair, reuse and sensitive retrofitting of the architectural heritage and older building stock of the County as a cornerstone of its sustainable development policy; require that adaptative reuse and regeneration adheres to best conservation practice.
<b>Policy HCAP10</b>	<b>Retention</b> Continue to support and encourage the sympathetic and appropriate reuse, rehabilitation and retention of Protected Structures and historic buildings ensuring the special interest, character and setting of the building or structure is preserved.

<b>Policies and Objectives in Relation to Cultural and Natural Heritage</b>	
<b>Policy HCAP11</b>	<b>Conservation of Architectural Heritage</b> Conserve and protect buildings, structures and sites of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest by adding or retaining them on the RPS or by designating groups of structures as ACAs.
<b>Policy HCAP12</b>	<b>Interventions to Protected Structures</b> Ensure that direct or indirect interventions to Protected Structures, or adjoining development, affecting them are guided by architectural conservation principles so that they are sympathetic, sensitive and appropriate to the special interest, appearance, character, and setting of the Protected Structure and are sensitively scaled and designed.
<b>Policy HCAP13</b>	<b>Retention of Protected Structures</b> Require the retention and appropriate active use of Protected Structures.
<b>Policy HCAP16</b>	<b>Conservation Best Practice</b> Promote best conservation practice and encourage the use of appropriately qualified and experienced conservation professionals, contractors, and craft persons.
<b>Objective HCAO22</b>	<b>Record of Protected Structures</b> Review the RPS to assess current entries and to add structures of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest as appropriate.
<b>Objective HCAO23</b>	<b>Expansion of Record of Protected Structures</b> Expand the RPS to include structures of industrial, maritime, vernacular and twentieth century heritage where they are of sufficient significance and complete the assessment of the few remaining Ministerial Recommendations from the NIAH Survey of Fingal.
<b>Objective HCAO24</b>	<b>Alteration and Development of Protected Structures and ACAs</b> Require proposals for any development, modification, alteration, extension or energy retrofitting affecting a Protected Structure and/or its setting or a building that contributes to the character of an ACA are sensitively sited and designed, are compatible with the special character, and are appropriate in terms of the proposed scale, mass, height, density, architectural treatment, layout, materials, impact on architectural or historic features.
<b>Policy HCAP17</b>	<b>Maintenance and Energy Retrofitting</b> Promote good housekeeping principles of routine maintenance checks, with repair and conservation of building fabric where required as a mechanism to assist with achieving the best thermal performance from a building. Support and promote the sensitive retrofitting of energy efficiency measures and the use of renewable energy sources in traditional and historic buildings, including Protected Structures. Ensure that the measures are compatible with traditional construction methods and materials and do not have a detrimental physical, aesthetic or visual impact on the structure.
<b>Policy HCAP21</b>	<b>Built Heritage Assets</b> Protect and enhance the historic environment and built heritage assets, including elements of historic street furniture, paving and historic boundary treatments.
<b>Policy HCAP23</b>	<b>Heritage-led Regeneration</b> Require that adaptative reuse of older buildings and historic centre heritage-led regeneration adheres to best conservation practice and principles. There will be a presumption against the demolition of older buildings where restoration or adaptation is a feasible option.

Policies and Objectives in Relation to Cultural and Natural Heritage	
<b>Policy HCAP25</b>	<b>Retention of Historic Fabric</b> Encourage the retention of the original or historic fabric such as windows, doors, wall renders, roof coverings, shopfronts, pub fronts and other significant features of older or historic buildings, whether protected or not.
<b>Objective HCAO35</b>	<b>Appropriate Maintenance, Repair and Reuse</b> Advocate for and support appropriate maintenance, repair, reuse and sensitive retrofitting of the architectural heritage, vernacular buildings and the older building stock of the County, whether protected or not, to deliver the Council's sustainable development policy.
<b>Objective HCAO40</b>	<b>Public Realm Works</b> Require that public realm works, proposed infrastructural and public utility works do not remove historic street furniture such as limestone or granite kerbs, cobblestones, cast-iron post boxes, water pumps, milestones and historic street-lamp standards, except where an exceptional need has been clearly established.
Climate Change and Heritage	
<b>Policy HCAP29</b>	<b>Climate Change and Heritage</b> Advance and support mechanisms through which the Council can develop resilience, adapt or mitigate the impact of Climate Change on the archaeological and built heritage of the County.
<b>Policy HCAP30</b>	<b>Effects of Climate Change</b> Cooperate with other agencies in the investigation of climate change on the fabric of historic buildings and traditional construction to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce the vulnerability of the built heritage.
<b>Objective HCAO50</b>	<b>Climate Change Mitigation</b> Utilise the data provided by the <i>Fingal Cultural Heritage and Climate Change Risk Assessment</i> (FCC 2021) to address or mitigate, where possible, the potential Climate Change impacts identified. Where managed loss is the most appropriate option to ensure the site or structure is fully recorded and the data retained by the Council.
<b>Objective HCAO51</b>	<b>Adaptation Strategies</b> Develop resilience and adaptation strategies for the built and archaeological heritage in the Council's ownership.
Access to the Heritage Resource	
<b>Objective HCAO53</b>	<b>Tourism</b> Promote the tourism potential of Fingal's cultural heritage and improve legibility by providing guidance for appropriate interpretation in line with the <i>Fingal Heritage Signage and Trails Guidance</i> (FCC 2021).
<b>Objective HCAO54</b>	<b>Understanding of the Heritage Resource</b> Promote and enhance the understanding of the archaeological and architectural heritage of Fingal through the development of cultural tourism products, talks, exhibitions and publications. Digital access through interactive maps, videos, virtual exhibitions, and podcasts.
<b>Objective HCAO56</b>	<b>Engagement</b> Seek to work with all relevant stakeholders to promote equality of access to and engagement with arts and cultural services.
Culture	
<b>Policy HCAP32</b>	<b>Protection of Cultural Infrastructure</b> Ensure that culture infrastructure is valued and protected as an integral part of the fabric of Fingal, in line with national and regional policy.



<b>Policies and Objectives in Relation to Cultural and Natural Heritage</b>	
<b>Policy HCAP33</b>	<b>Cultural Resources</b> Support the growth and expansion of the many cultural resources within Fingal, particularly where proposals increase the opportunity for greater engagement with local communities, the young, the marginalised and people with disabilities.
<b>Objective HCAO57</b>	<b>Arts and Culture Infrastructure Policy</b> Develop an Arts and Culture Infrastructure policy document for Fingal that informs the preparation of audits, use of vacant spaces and toolkits for provision of cultural and arts facilities.
<b>Green Infrastructure</b>	
<b>Policy GINHP5</b>	<b>Green Infrastructure Network</b> Develop the green infrastructure network to ensure the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, including the protection of European Sites, the provision of accessible parks, open spaces and recreational facilities (including allotments and community gardens), the sustainable management of water, the maintenance of landscape character including historic landscape character and the protection and enhancement of archaeological and heritage landscapes.
<b>Objective GINHO2</b>	<b>Fragmentation</b> Reduce fragmentation and enhance the resilience of Fingal's green infrastructure network by strengthening ecological links between urban areas, Natura 2000 sites, proposed NHAs, parks and open spaces and the wider regional network by connecting all new developments into the wider green infrastructure network.
<b>Objective GINHO3</b>	<b>Biodiversity in Open Space</b> Make provision for biodiversity within public open space and include water sensitive design and management measures as part of a sustainable approach to open space design and management.
<b>Objective GINHO5</b>	<b>Pollinator Plan</b> Continue to support the provisions of the <i>National Pollinator Plan 2021–2025</i> through the management and monitoring of the County's pollinator protection sites and through the promotion of additional pollinator sites during the lifetime of this Development Plan.
<b>Objective GINHO8</b>	<b>Routes</b> Provide attractive and safe routes linking parks and open spaces and other related features such as cultural sites and heritage assets as an integral part of green infrastructure provision, where appropriate and feasible.
<b>Policy GINHP7</b>	<b>Protection</b> Protect and enhance the natural, historical, amenity and biodiversity value of the County's watercourses, flood plains, riparian corridors, wetlands and coastal area through long-term and liaison with relevant Prescribed Bodies where appropriate.
<b>Policy GINHP8</b>	<b>Archaeology and Green Infrastructure</b> Protect, conserve and enhance landscape, natural, cultural and built heritage features, and support the implementation of the Fingal Heritage Plan in relation to the provision of green infrastructure.
<b>Objective GINHO17</b>	<b>Fingal Heritage Plan</b> Protect, conserve and enhance landscape, natural, cultural and built heritage features, and support the objectives and actions of the Fingal Heritage Plan.

Policies and Objectives in Relation to Cultural and Natural Heritage	
<b>Objective GINHO19</b>	<b>Green Networks</b> Create an integrated and coherent green infrastructure for the County by requiring the retention of substantial networks of green space in urban, urban fringe and adjacent countryside areas to serve the needs of communities now and in the future including the need to adapt to and mitigate climate change.
<b>Objective GINHO26</b>	<b>Rewilding</b> Continue to promote and support rewilding and pollinator initiatives within the County.
Natural Heritage	
<b>Policy GINHP11</b>	<b>Biodiversity Action Plan</b> Support the adoption and implementation of the <i>Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan</i> , implementation of the <i>National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017–2021</i> and the <i>All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021–2025</i> and any superseding plans.
<b>Policy GINHP12</b>	<b>Protected Sites</b> Protect areas designated or proposed to be designated as Natura 2000 sites (i.e. SACs and SPAs, pNHAs, NHAs, Statutory Nature Reserves, and Refuges for Fauna).
<b>Policy GINHP15</b>	<b>Biodiversity in Buildings Guidance</b> Promote the inclusion of swift, swallow, house martin, house sparrow, starling, bat and insect boxes and structures in and on building facades and develop a guidance document on how to incorporate these structures into buildings.
<b>Policy GINHP16</b>	<b>Rewilding and Pollinator Initiatives</b> Promote and support rewilding and pollinator initiatives in Fingal.
<b>Objective GINHO31</b>	<b>Invasive Species</b> Continue the control programs of invasive species with all relevant stakeholders and landowners to control the key invasive species.
<b>Policy GINHP18</b>	<b>Species Protection</b> The Council will seek to protect rare and threatened species, including species protected by law and their habitats by requiring planning applicants to demonstrate that proposals will not have a significant adverse impact on such species and their habitats.
<b>Objective GINHO41</b>	<b>Protection of Rivers</b> Protect rivers, streams and other watercourses and maintain them in an open state capable of providing suitable habitat for fauna and flora, including fish.
<b>Policy GINHP21</b>	<b>Protection of Trees and Hedgerows</b> Protect existing woodlands, trees and hedgerows which are of amenity or biodiversity value and/or contribute to landscape character and ensure that proper provision is made for their protection and management in line with the adopted <i>Forest of Fingal – A Tree Strategy for Fingal</i> .
<b>Policy GINHP22</b>	<b>Tree Planting</b> Provide for appropriate protection of trees and hedgerows, recognising their value to our natural heritage, biodiversity and climate action and encourage tree planting in appropriate locations.
Landscape	
<b>Policy GINHP25</b>	<b>Preservation of Landscape Types</b> Ensure the preservation of the uniqueness of a landscape character type by having regard to the character, value and sensitivity of a landscape when determining a planning application.

<b>Policies and Objectives in Relation to Cultural and Natural Heritage</b>	
<b>Objective GINHO57</b>	<b>Development and Landscape</b> Ensure development reflects and, where possible, reinforces the distinctiveness and sense of place of the landscape character types, including the retention of important features or characteristics, taking into account the various elements which contribute to their distinctiveness such as geology and landform, habitats, scenic quality, settlement pattern, historic heritage, local vernacular heritage, land-use and tranquillity.
<b>Objective GINHO58</b>	<b>Sensitive Areas</b> Resist development such as houses, forestry, masts, extractive operations, landfills, caravan parks, and campsites, and large agricultural/horticulture units which would interfere with the character of highly sensitive areas or with a view or prospect of special amenity value, which it is necessary to preserve.
<b>Burial Grounds</b>	
<b>Objective DMSO87</b>	<b>Management and Maintenance of Burial Grounds</b> Ensure burial grounds are managed and maintained in a manner which respects their cultural heritage and which provides safety and universal access.

## Appendix 6: Fingal Heritage Plan 2024–2030 – Strategic Objectives

Protecting our Place		
No	Action	Outcome
1.1.	Collaborate on the implementation of the <i>Fingal County Biodiversity Plan 2022–2030</i> ; the <i>Fingal Climate Change Action Plan 2024–2029</i> ; the <i>Forest of Fingal – A Tree Strategy for Fingal 2023–2032</i> and the <i>Fingal Tourism Strategy 2023–2029</i> .	Integrated implementation of Heritage, Biodiversity, Tourism and Climate Action Plans.
1.2.	Promote best practice for heritage by ensuring that the requirements of relevant national and EU legislation are met by the Council and through guidance and training at community level.	Mainstreaming of heritage in policy and practice.
1.3.	Build capacity for practice of traditional skills and community-led heritage projects at local level by developing a series of workshops, demonstration days and events for farmers, vernacular and historic building owners, local communities and interested individuals.	Inclusive ways for people to enjoy learning about and getting involved with their local heritage.
1.4.	Continue to work with the owners of archaeological sites to conserve archaeological monuments utilising the CMF.	Custodians are supported in protecting and consolidating archaeological monuments for the future.
1.6.	Continue to resource and review the implementation of existing CMPs and encourage the use of the conservation management plan process for heritage assets in both the private and community sectors.	The CMP process is the foundation for managing heritage places and sites in Fingal – whether these are in public, private or community ownership and care.
Sharing our Stories		
No.	Action	Outcome
2.1.	Support community-led Heritage Audit & Interpretation Plans for an integrated holistic approach to local heritage identification and interpretation.	The community is enabled to share and celebrate local stories, traditions, and heritage through authentic and appropriate community led interpretation and heritage projects, informed by robust research.
2.2.	Develop toolkits for community-led projects, provide best practice guidance ( <i>Fingal Heritage Signage and Trails Guidance 2021</i> ) and training events.	
2.3.	Facilitate the learning/sharing of traditional skills in relation to built, maritime and natural heritage.	
2.4.	Promote funding opportunities for local, community-led heritage projects.	
2.6.	Raise public awareness of cultural heritage and improve legibility by providing appropriate interpretation at buildings, areas, sites, villages, and towns.	The community and visitors are connected to stories of Fingal's places and people through high quality relevant interpretation and communication of heritage, which is locally focussed.
2.7.	Promote and enhance the understanding of the heritage of Fingal through the development of talks, exhibitions, and publications; increase digital access through interactive maps, videos, virtual exhibitions, and podcast and through the development of cultural tourism products.	

2.8.	Promote understanding of biodiversity as part of our heritage by highlighting the biodiversity aspects of Fingal's heritage properties, demesnes, designed landscapes and sites in guides, leaflets and online materials.	
2.9.	Support capacity building projects and events within communities of place and interest and facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experience between communities.	Expansion of the Fingal Heritage Network.
2.10.	Continue to record fieldnames and placenames to preserve traditional and historic names and local knowledge and inform new place naming.	Preserve old placenames and fieldnames of Fingal, and their meaning into the future.
<b>Climate Action for Heritage</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
3.2.	Support and develop citizen science projects such as Fingal Heritage X Climate as a means of monitoring climate change impacts on Fingal's heritage assets and raising public awareness of the value of heritage for the community, enterprise, sustainability and well-being.	Coordinated, collaborative, evidence-based mechanisms to develop resilience, adapt or mitigate the impact of climate change on the archaeological and built heritage of the County.
<b>All Our Voices</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
4.1.	Work with communities and stakeholders to cocreate heritage projects that are relevant and accessible to underserved audiences.	Projects that include and represent the heritages of new, diverse, and historically unrepresented communities.
4.3.	Work with a range of stakeholders including schools, youth groups, heritage organisations and heritage sites to cocreate initiatives that support young people engaging with their local heritage in ways which they find relevant and appealing.	Enhanced opportunities for young people to engage with local heritage in relevant and appealing ways, both in school and during leisure time.
4.6.	Undertake an audit of folklore collections and oral histories of the people of Fingal to enhance our understanding of our people and their stories.	Heritage projects that recognise, share, and celebrate our oral history and the connection it provides to place.
<b>Creating Knowledge</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
5.1.	Continue to identify knowledge gaps and collect and share heritage data (basic research, thematic surveys, and reports), to archive this data according to best practice guidance.	An enhanced, accessible knowledge base on Fingal's heritage informing management interpretation, and best practice.
<b>Accessible Heritage</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
6.2.	Research current heritage audiences to identify ways to increase cultural engagement for minority groups such as people with disabilities, members of the Travelling community and LGBTQ+ community members and identify ways of removing barriers to accessing and celebrating heritage for all.	Removal physical, social and cultural barriers resulting in improved access for all to the heritage of Fingal.



<b>6.3.</b>	Document Fingal heritage and biodiversity and ensure that all partners have access to the data, insights and expert guidance required to inform decision-making and guide future investment.	
<b>6.5.</b>	Explore the use of innovative and emerging technologies to promote Fingal's heritage and engage with a wide range of audiences.	

## Appendix 7: Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2023–2030 – Actions and Objectives

Managing Open Space for Biodiversity		
No	Action	Objective
37	Develop pesticide use policy for Fingal County Council.	Eliminate pesticide use in the Council where possible.
38	Support and promote All Ireland Pollinator Plan Actions for Councils and monitor the resulting changes.	Increase by 20% the area of Council owned land that is managed with the objective of improving biodiversity.
39	Develop a grass maintenance policy for open spaces including options for grass disposal from wildflower meadows.	To reduce grass cutting frequency of open space where possible.
Agri-Environment Schemes		
No.	Action	Objective
62	Develop Bird of Prey Conservation project with local farmers including raising awareness of the impacts of Rodenticide use and its proper application.	To increase the Bird of Prey population of four species.
Research and Monitoring		
No.	Action	Objective
70	Undertake study to identify the habitats and species at risk of climate change.	To determine which species and habitats are most at risk from climate change and where they are located.
74	Map townland boundary hedgerows on the Fingal green infrastructure maps.	To help protect the most important hedgerows from adverse developments.
81	Carry out Countryside Breeding bird survey.	To provide new countryside bird data for state of environment report.
82	Carry out Countryside Mammal Survey.	To provide new mammal data for state of environment report.
Raising Awareness		
No.	Action	Objective
94	Organise a monthly program of events e.g. walks, talks and practical conservation outings.	Organise at least 20 outings per year.

## Appendix 8: Fingal Community Archaeology Strategy 2019–2023 – Objectives

Community Archaeology Strategy Objectives	
No.	Objective
1.	Plan, programme and support high-quality, accessible community archaeology projects.
2.	Identify in discussion with interested groups and in discussion with NMS, the (then) Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and the Heritage Council, a county-wide series of appropriate community archaeology projects.
3.	Create a forum for community archaeology either as independent entity or part of the existing Heritage forum.
4.	Promote collaboration between community-based groups through the Fingal Public Participation Network and initiatives with national institutions such as the National Museum of Ireland, Discovery Programme and higher education institutions.
5.	Work with Fingal Arts Office to develop art projects in conjunction with archaeological sites, monuments and excavations as a means of engaging new audiences.
6.	Support communities in their development of heritage trails and interpretative signage in accordance with best practice.
7.	Explore options with landowners for the opening up of opportunities for community archaeology projects in relation to monuments in private ownership or for creating access for heritage trails.
8.	Raise awareness of the existing resources for community archaeology, both web-based and research orientated, including the Local Studies Archive, Swords.
9.	Develop interpretative resources for community and educational purposes and for heritage- based tourism products.
10.	Continue dissemination of knowledge gained from community archaeology initiatives through publication, social media, talks and events for local and international audiences.
11.	Raise awareness of lesser known non-invasive of archaeological techniques by undertaking community geophysical survey and fieldwalking projects.
12.	Develop projects that maximise opportunities to engage young people and new communities.
13.	Provide opportunities for community participation in threat related projects such as recording the impact of climate change and erosion and application of appropriate building techniques.
14.	Identify sources of funding to support community archaeology projects including opportunities within existing initiatives.
15.	Continue to employ a Community Archaeologist in Fingal County Council to ensure the implementation of the objectives of this strategy.

## Appendix 9: Fingal Climate Change Action Plan 2019–2024 – Actions

Energy & Buildings		
No	Action	Targets Impacted
E22	Study potential for viable district heating projects within Fingal.	Energy efficiency; greenhouse gas reduction; public awareness
Transport		
No.	Action	Targets Impacted
T16	Implement traffic calming programme including provision of new signalised pedestrian crossings.	Greenhouse gas reduction
T17	Regular maintenance of regional and local roads to encourage modal shift to cycling.	Greenhouse gas reduction
T18	Improve conditions and uptake of cycling through public realm/local area plans.	Greenhouse gas reduction
Flood Resilience		
No.	Action	Targets Impacted
F10	Develop a climate change impact GIS risk map with scenarios for the Dublin Region.	Resilience
F11	Archaeological and heritage assets to form part of all climate risk assessments including opportunities for integration of cultural heritage in adaptative mitigations, e.g. green infrastructure, cycle ways, nature-based solutions, etc.	Resilience
F12	Identify projects and opportunities for collaboration with relevant stakeholders to assess and prioritise cultural heritage sites vulnerable to climate change.	Resilience
F25	Carry out a Climate Change Risk Assessment of Fingal's Cultural Heritage to identify and survey the architectural and archaeological heritage sites and designed landscapes.	Resilience
Nature-Based Solutions		
No.	Action	Targets Impacted
N1	Engage with sectoral adaptation plan on biodiversity to identify key habitats and species at risk from climate change impacts.	Resilience
N6	Develop climate change initiatives in partnership with local farmers and other stakeholders.	Resilience; public awareness
N7	Review and implement the Tree Strategy to protect existing trees, increase tree cover, establish guidelines on tree maintenance and investigate feasibility of urban orchards.	Resilience; greenhouse gas reduction
N8	Identify sites for woodland planting that promotes an appropriate native species mix.	Resilience
N11	Develop a map of habitats and species at risk of climate change.	Resilience
N12	Develop a monitoring programme of the habitats and species considered at risk of climate change.	Resilience; public awareness
N13	Prepare a climate proof biodiversity plan.	Resilience
N14	Support and promote National Biodiversity Data Centre All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Actions for Councils.	Resilience; public awareness
N15	Increase pollinator areas in public parks and open spaces.	Resilience; public awareness

Resource Management		
No.	Action	Targets Impacted
R6	Promote Conscious Cup Campaign.	Greenhouse gas reduction; public awareness
R7	Promote 'Reuse Month' annually.	Greenhouse gas reduction; public awareness
R9	Promote and support circular economy initiatives.	Public awareness
R10	Trial recycling bins in regional parks.	Greenhouse gas reduction; resilience; public awareness
R11	Implement a programme for the installation of big belly bins across the County to reduce collection frequencies and emissions.	Greenhouse gas reduction; resilience; public awareness
R12	Support and promote the inclusion of climate change initiatives in tidy town, green schools and cleaner communities.	Greenhouse gas reduction; resilience; public awareness
R14	Explore collaboration with Refill.ie to reduce single use drinking water bottles.	Resilience; public awareness



## Appendix 10: Fingal Local Economic & Community Plan 2023–2028 – Objectives and Actions

Theme 5: Rich Arts, Culture & Heritage				
Goal	Goal Description	Objectives	Outcomes	Impact
<b>G5.1</b>	Promote, protect, and grow the heritage of Fingal and ensure quality amenities for all.	<b>SCO 15:</b> To enhance the promotion and brand of Fingal's heritage. <b>SCO 16:</b> To improve access to key heritage assets. <b>SCO 17:</b> To preserve and protect Fingal's heritage assets.	Better branding and promotion. Improved access to heritage sites.	Greater profile and accessibility of Fingal's heritage assets.
<b>G5.2</b>	Support new and existing cultures to thrive.	<b>SCO 18:</b> To promote inclusivity by providing supports for new and existing cultures.	Stronger social cohesion.	Integration and inclusivity for all cultures, new and existing.
<b>G5.3</b>	Champion the arts and cultural life of the county.	<b>SCO 19:</b> To enhance the promotion and brand of Fingal's arts and cultural life.	Improved reach and recognition of Fingal's arts and culture.	Greater profile and accessibility of Fingal's arts and culture.
Theme 6: Safe, Accessible, Vibrant Places				
Goal	Goal Description	Objectives	Outcomes	Impact
<b>G6.2</b>	Promote safety in the community through collaboration and inclusivity.	<b>SCO 20:</b> To develop areas which are safe for all. <b>SCO 21:</b> To develop and implement measures to reduce anti-social behaviour.	Safer urban and rural areas. Broader engagement with all cohorts, especially young people and minorities.	Low levels of crime.

## Appendix 11: Conservation Policies and Actions for St Doulagh's

Immediate and Short-Term Actions (2025–2028)		
Policy	Action	Description
<b>St Doulagh's Church</b>		
Policy 1: Protection	P01-A08	Protect and preserve the medieval earthen floors in the church and tower by laying a series of short wooden paths across the areas of flooring, so as to redirect and limit footfall.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A05	Maintain a constant low flow of cold air in the medieval church buildings with the use of cold air blowers. Leave windows and doors open on dry days when the church is in use.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A06	Employ UV heaters and lights to kill mould, mildew spores and dry out the medieval church structure.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A07	Install a CNT dehumidification system with sensors to monitor rising damp in the medieval masonry walls and decrease any water levels.
<b>St Doulagh's Well/the Baptistry and St Catherine's Well</b>		
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A12	Clean out St Doulagh's Well in the Baptistry and the vault.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A13	Carefully treat and remove vegetation from the Baptistry and the vault/St Catherine's Well.
Policy 3: Research and Education	P03-A04	Undertake a 3D laser scan and/or photogrammetry survey of St Doulagh's Well, St Catherine's Well, the medieval cross and the memorials in the graveyard to generate baseline 3D models of the monuments.
Policy 3: Research and Education	P03-A08	Carry out XRF spectroscopy of the interior of the Baptistry and the vault.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A14	Reset and re-bed broken string/drip course on the exterior of Baptistry.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A15	Repoint exterior of Baptistry and vault and coat with a hydrophobic coating.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A16	Reset and re-bed steps and paving slabs to the south of the Baptistry.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A17	Replace locks to the Baptistry and vault to avoid anti-social behaviour.

Immediate and Short-Term Actions (2025–2028)		
The Graveyard		
Policy 1: Protection	P01-A09	Digitally record and monitor vulnerable memorials, grave slabs and headstones.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A18	Reset and repair fallen and broken headstones, memorials and grave slabs in graveyard.
Ecological Heritage		
Policy 3: Research and Education	P03-A01	Carry out a follow-up nighttime Bat Survey during the survey season to ascertain where bats are roosting in the church and what species are using the site.
Policy 3: Research and Education	P03-A02	Carry out an Owl Survey during the May to September nesting season. Any findings should be added to the National Biodiversity Centre database.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A22	Seek advice from the Fingal Heritage Officer, Fingal Biodiversity Officer, the NPWS and the NMS regarding the most appropriate lights to use on St Doulagh's Well/the Baptistry.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A23	Change the lighting on St Doulagh's Well/the Baptistry to sensor lighting with LED Luminaires to comply with guidelines relating to bats.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A24	Fit two Flat Bat Colony Boxes (3FF) to mature trees along the northern boundary of St Doulagh's Field and fit another to a mature tree in the graveyard.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A25	Cluster four Schwegler Universal Bat Boxes (1FFH) on trees around the edge of the site
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A26	Install bird boxes in trees around the site to increase the nesting potential for crevice nesting birds such as the blue tit ( <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> ) and great tit ( <i>Parus major</i> ).
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A31	Remove dead and dying ash trees in the graveyard and along the treeline on the Malahide Road.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A32	Manage the trees along the Malahide Road to comply with section 70 of the Roads Act 1993.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A33	Fell the Japanese cherry in the southeast corner of the graveyard and leave the stump <i>in situ</i> .

Medium-Term Actions (2028–2032)		
St Doulagh's Church		
Policy 3: Research and Education	P03-A06	Obtain a sample of the earthen floor in the upper levels of the church tower to analyse constituent parts and for dating purposes.
Policy 3: Research and Education	P03-A07	Carry out XRF spectroscopy of the central mullion of the east window to the chancel to determine the calcium carbonate content of the stone.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A08	Clean and repair broken tiles in the nineteenth-century nave and chancel. Re-bed and regrout loose and fragile tiles.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A09	Refurbish the pews in the Victorian nave.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A10	Clean and repair the timber doors of the church.
The Graveyard		
Policy 3: Research and Education	P03-A14	Undertake an updated Graveyard Survey that builds on the existing surveys by Fingal County Council (FCC 2008) and the Friends of St Doulagh's Church.
Ecological Heritage		
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A27	Convert the grassy margin along the Malahide Road to a flower-rich margin to encourage insects (including pollinators), mammal and bird populations.
Policy 4: Access and Interpretation	P04-A09	Develop a page on the website of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's that outlines the biodiversity actions being undertaken at St Doulagh's and describes the local habitat.
General		
Policy 1: Protection	P01-A05	Develop a framework for monitoring the impacts of climate change to the site. Ensure that potential impacts arising from climate change to the heritage assets is widely understood, communicated and appreciated. Ensure that suitable mitigation is devised in collaboration with key stakeholders, as appropriate.
Policy 1: Protection	P01-A07	Undertake a Risk and Vulnerability Assessment to ascertain potential impacts to cultural and ecological assets arising from climate change and natural hazards.
Policy 3: Research and Education	P03-A05	Obtain mortar samples from secure undisturbed areas of the oratory, tower and Baptistry for analysis of the component parts and radiocarbon dating.
Policy 4: Access and Interpretation	P04-A02	Increase the heritage profile of St Doulagh's by making the church more accessible to the local community for events, lectures, recitals, workshops and recreational activities.

Medium-Term Actions (2028–2032)		
Policy 4: Access and Interpretation	P04-A04	Implement measures to facilitate sustainable access for arrivals to site respecting its setting, significance and environs, having regard to traffic and parking issues, public transport, cycling and pedestrians.
Policy 4: Access and Interpretation	P04-A06	Develop an Interpretation Plan for the site.
Policy 4: Access and Interpretation	P04-A10	Explore options for the sympathetic and sustainable parking surfaces in St Doulagh's Field to alleviate damage to the grassland, as well as any subsurface archaeology.
Policy 4: Access and Interpretation	P04-A11	Provide for a wheelchair access ramp and disabled parking spaces along the approach avenue to the church to enable universal access to the site.
Long-Term Actions (2032–2035)		
St Doulagh's Church		
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A11	Explore heating the church through the use of renewable green energy installations.
Graveyard		
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A19	Maintain and repair enclosing walls of graveyard and avenue.
Policy 4: Access and Interpretation	P04-A12	Re-gravel approach avenue to the church and the path in the graveyard and around the church.
Policy 4: Access and Interpretation	P04-A13	Include for the provision of toilet facilities onsite.
General		
Policy 3: Research and Education	P03-A10	Foster local awareness of the archaeological and heritage value of the site through the development of a community archaeology project that builds on the existing archaeological and survey work, in consultation with the Fingal Heritage Officer and the NMS.
Policy 3: Research and Education	P03-A11	Ensure funding for a detailed historical analysis of the site's development by a suitably qualified medieval and early modern researcher, with reference to church records, the archives of the Representative Church Body Library, estate maps, deeds and other primary and secondary sources.
Policy 3: Research and Education	P03-A12	Investigate the evidence for prehistoric archaeology in the local area through the development of fieldwalking surveys in local ploughed fields.



Long-Term Actions (2032–2035)		
Policy 3: Research and Education	P03-A13	Develop an oral history project that records folklore and traditions concerning the church and holy wells, as well as the local history and field names of the townland of Saintdoolaghs.
Policy 4: Access and Interpretation	P04-A01	Develop sustainable events, small group tours, workshops, lectures and recitals at St Doulagh's that respect the integrity, authenticity and heritage of the place.
Policy 4: Access and Interpretation	P04-A07	Develop part of St Doulagh's Field as a meditation garden, while respecting the biodiversity, authenticity and integrity of the place.

Actions for Ongoing Maintenance, Monitoring and Management (2025–2035)		
Policy 1: Protection	P01-A01	Protect and conserve the unique character of St Doulagh's.
Policy 1: Protection	P01-A02	Protect the historic setting of the church, graveyard and St Doulagh's Field and conserve the archaeological and architectural heritage of the place.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A01	Establish a ten-year programme for the effective maintenance and conservation of the site, with appropriate review by the Representative Church Body, the Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's, Fingal County Council, the Friends of St Doulagh's Church, and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A02	Support key stakeholders in the development of a maintenance plan for St Doulagh's that ensures that all conservation, repair and maintenance works are carried out in accordance with best international practice.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A03	Devise a strategy for conservation and maintenance works with key stakeholders that is informed by the Policies and Actions of the CMP.
Policy 1: Protection	P01-A06	Ensure that statutory obligations in relation to conservation, repair and maintenance works to monuments are observed, understood and are undertaken with the requisite licences, assessments and approvals in place.
Policy 1: Protection	P03-A09	Ensure that archaeological and built heritage surveys, as well as any conservation works are undertaken by suitably qualified practitioners with the requisite skills to conduct such works.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A04	Establish a site management archive with full records of conservation and repair interventions.
Policy 1: Protection	P01-A03	Encourage continued collaboration between key stakeholders to ensure the protection and preservation of the site.
Policy 1: Protection	P01-A04	Provide the Representative Church Body of the Church of Ireland, the Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's, Fingal County Council and the Friends of St Doulagh's Church with best-practice advice and practical guidance in relation to the protection of the heritage of the place.

Actions for Ongoing Maintenance, Monitoring and Management (2025–2035)		
Policy 1: Protection	P01-A10	Ensure that the historical, spiritual, social, archaeological, architectural and cultural significance of the site is communicated to visitors and the local community to ensure respect and protection for St Doulagh's into the future.
Policy 3: Research and Education	P03-A03	Promote and support the use of non-invasive archaeological techniques, such as LiDAR survey, thermal imaging survey, magnetometry survey, ortho photos and drone survey onsite.
Policy 3: Research and Education	P03-A15	Further research links with local schools, colleges, universities and other learning institutions, as well as local history and archaeology groups, to gain a better understanding of the church, ecclesiastical site and associated remains through time.
Policy 3: Research and Education	P03-A16	Ensure that findings from all studies, surveys and works are disseminated as widely as possible and in a format that respects the target audience.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A20	Manage the site to preserve, enhance and improve its biodiversity value, in particular the flora and fauna species that were identified in the Ecology Survey, Bat Survey and Tree Survey.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A21	Support, encourage and protect the biodiversity within the graveyard and St Doulagh's Field and when planting use pollinator friendly species.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A28	Ensure the health and survival of the mature yew tree in the churchyard through ongoing pruning and monitoring.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A29	Monitor and manage the hawthorn in the retaining wall of the Baptistry to ensure its survival.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A30	Monitor and manage the historic lime avenue in the north of St Doulagh's Field to ensure the health and preservation of the trees.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A34	Leave dead wood <i>in situ</i> onsite to support habitats for fungi and invertebrates.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A35	Maintain suitable groundcover in the graveyard, particularly ivy and native species, to counter the effects of erosion and subsidence, provide food for pollinators and habitat for invertebrates.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A36	Only thin trees and cut back vegetation outside of the nesting season and under the supervision of a specialist to ensure that any impacts to local fauna are minimised.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A37	Control vegetation and protect any relict plant species with localised strimming at key times of year, as recommended by an ecologist.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A38	Retain ivy on trees to support hibernating bats, pollinators and other invertebrates.

Actions for Ongoing Maintenance, Monitoring and Management (2025–2035)		
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A39	Ensure that appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into any proposals for conservation and/or maintenance works to ensure that activities do not have adverse impacts on the local flora and fauna.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A40	Secure resources and explore all available funding opportunities to enable conservation and maintenance works, biodiversity enhancements and ongoing management of the site to be carried out.
Policy 2: Conservation, Repair, Management and Maintenance	P02-A41	Promote a Leave No Trace principle at the site.
Policy 4: Access and Interpretation	P04-A03	Facilitate public access and sustainable use of the place, while also implementing security measures to limit antisocial behaviour.
Policy 4: Access and Interpretation	P04-A05	Promote positive behaviour of visitors and raise awareness of the significance and vulnerability of the heritage of the place.
Policy 4: Access and Interpretation	P04-A08	Develop educational programmes that facilitate an understanding of the significance of St Doulagh's in an archaeological, spiritual, historical, social, architectural and ecological context.

## Appendix 12: Stakeholder Group

Name	Organisation	Role
<b>Christine Baker</b>	Fingal County Council	Fingal Heritage Officer
<b>Brian Brown</b>	Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's	Honorary Treasurer
<b>Helena Bergin</b>	Fingal County Council	Architectural Conservation Officer
<b>Ian Douglas</b>	Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants	Ecologist
<b>Paul Duffy</b>	Resurrecting Monuments	Member of Community Archaeology Group
<b>Aidan Giblin</b>	Resurrecting Monuments	Member of Community Archaeology Group
<b>Reverend Canon David Gillespie</b>	The United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's	Rector of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's
<b>Roy Goodwin</b>	Goodwin-Arborist	Arboriculturist
<b>Sara Marandola</b>	Archaeological Management Solutions	Built Heritage Specialist
<b>Ken McAllister</b>	Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's; Friends of St Doulagh's	Glebe Warden of St Doulagh's; Member of the Friends of St Doulagh's Church
<b>Derek Moffatt</b>	Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's; Friends of St Doulagh's	Treasurer of the Friends of St Doulagh's Church
<b>Mick Mongey</b>	Resurrecting Monuments	Member of Community Archaeology Group
<b>Ciara O'Flynn</b>	Archaeological Management Solutions	Built Heritage Specialist
<b>Martin Reid</b>	National Monuments Service	Community Monuments Fund, Dublin Officer
<b>Dr Kim Rice</b>	Archaeological Management Solutions	Project Archaeologist
<b>Chris Southgate</b>	Southgate Associates	Conservation Engineer

## Appendix 13: Potential Notification, Licence and Consent Requirements

Cultural Heritage Asset	Potential Notification, Licence & Consent Requirements	Programming Requirement
<b>Works at or in relation to a Recorded Monument or Registered Monument</b>	Notification to the Minister under Section 12 (3) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 (Recorded Monument) and Section 5 (8) of National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1987 (Register of Historic Monuments). Section 26 Archaeological Licence. Where relevant Section 3 Underwater Dive/Survey Licence. Where relevant Section 2 Detection Device Licence (for Metal Detection or Geophysical Surveys).	Notification form must be completed and submitted to the National Monuments Service at least 2 months before any work is carried out at a Recorded Monument (listed on the RMP) or Registered Monument (listed on the RHM). Allow minimum 4 weeks for processing and issue of Section 26 Archaeological Licence, and where relevant for Section 3 Underwater Dive/Survey Licence and Section 2 Detection Device Licence.
<b>Works at or in proximity to a National Monument</b>	Section 14 Ministerial Consent.	Allow minimum 6 weeks for processing and issue of Consent in advance of development.
<b>Asset listed in the SMR</b>	Section 26 Archaeological Licence. Where relevant Section 3 Underwater Dive/Survey Licence. Where relevant Section 2 Detection Device Licence (for Metal Detection or Geophysical Surveys).	Allow minimum 4 weeks for processing and issue of Section 26 Archaeological Licence, and where relevant for Section 3 Underwater Dive/Survey Licence and Section 2 Detection Device Licence.
<b>Protected Structure</b>	May be subject to Section 14 Ministerial Consent (where/if also considered a national monument in the ownership/guardianship of the local authority) or Section 26 Archaeological Licence. May be subject to Section 5 Exempted Development Declaration or planning permission. May be subject to Section 57 Declaration.	Allow minimum 6 weeks for processing and issue of Consent in advance of development; allow minimum 4 weeks for processing and issue of Section 26 Archaeological Licence. Allow sufficient time for reporting and preparation of information to support Section 5 and/or Section 57 application detail.
<b>Asset listed on the NIAH Building Survey</b>	May be subject to Section 14 Ministerial Consent or Section 26 Archaeological Licence (where/if also considered a national monument in the ownership/guardianship of the local authority or where also included/protected on a statutory list).	Allow minimum 6 weeks for processing and issue of Consent in advance of development (if required); allow minimum 4 weeks for processing and issue of Section 26 Archaeological Licence.
<b>Undesignated Cultural Heritage Asset</b>	May be subject to Section 26 Archaeological Licence. May be subject to Section 3 Underwater Dive/Survey Licence. May be subject to Section 2 Detection Device Licence (for Metal Detection or Geophysical Surveys).	Allow minimum 4 weeks for processing and issue of Section 26 Archaeological Licence, Section 3 Underwater Dive/Survey Licence and Section 2 Detection Device Licence.



## **Annexes**

# Thermal Imaging Survey: The Baptistry, St Doulagh's, County Dublin



Archaeological  
Management Solutions



By: Liamóg Roche

For: The United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's, and the Friends  
of St Doulagh's Church

27 November 2024

## TITLE PAGE

<b>AMS Job No:</b>	J3529
<b>Project Name:</b>	St Doulagh's Conservation Management Plan
<b>Report Title:</b>	Thermal Imaging Survey: The Baptistry, St Doulagh's, County Dublin
<b>Client Name:</b>	The United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's, and the Friends of St Doulagh's Church
<b>Townland Name:</b>	Saintdoolaghs
<b>Grid Reference (ITM):</b>	721071, 742151
<b>Date of Survey</b>	28 August 2024
<b>Report Status/Revision:</b>	1.2
<b>Revision Date:</b>	27 November 2024
<b>Report Author(s):</b>	Liamóg Roche
<b>Date of Issue:</b>	29 November 2024
<b>File Name:</b>	J3529_Thermal_Survey_St. Doulaghs_v1.2

## Disclaimer and Copyright Notice

The results and conclusions 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, AMS accepts no responsibility for omissions and/or inconsistencies that may result from information becoming available subsequent to the report's completion.

The concepts and information contained in this document are the property of AMS Cultural Heritage Consultancy Limited trading as Archaeological Management Solutions (AMS). Use or copying of this document in whole or in part without the written permission of AMS constitutes an infringement of copyright.

© AMS Cultural Heritage Consultancy Limited 2024



**AMS Cultural Heritage Consultancy Limited trading as Archaeological Management Solutions (AMS)**

Company Registration No. 721173

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

T +353 (0)65 9062 878

[www.ams-consultancy.com](http://www.ams-consultancy.com)

## Executive Summary

This report describes the results of a thermal imaging survey carried out at the Baptistry of St Doulagh's Well, at St Doulagh's ecclesiastical site, in the townland of Saintdoolaghs, County Dublin. The survey was carried out on 28 August 2024 to compliment and inform a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the site, which is funded by the Community Monuments Fund (CMF). In particular, the potential ability of thermal imaging to detect the possible presence of remaining elements of murals within the Baptistry.

Despite the presence of thermal noise/interference from differential heating and damage to the internal plaster, a total of seventeen areas of thermal contrast with archaeological potential were identified [C1 to C17]. Although the majority of these contrasts present as amorphous anomalies which are difficult to definitively attribute, the lack of differential heating caused by the window openings or visible damage to the plaster in these areas suggests they may relate to thermal variations of less visible or underlying materials. While this could indicate surviving aspects of murals within these areas, the possibility that the contrasts relate to conditions such as damage or moisture underlying the plaster cannot be ruled out.

Nine of the thermal contrasts are of further note [C1, C4, C5, C6, C10, C11, C12, C13, C16] as they appear to correspond with areas of colour variation visible on the plaster. Finally, anomaly C14 may present the most potential for the indication of surviving mural elements. It is roughly cruciform in morphology and is located within the upper portion of the south-east internal façade. It does not appear to correspond to any visible damage, colour variation or differential heating from window openings.



## Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Site Location .....	1
1.2	Purpose and Scope of the Assessment .....	1
<b>2</b>	<b>Methodology.....</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1	Thermal and RGB Surveys.....	2
2.2	Data Management, Processing, and Interpretation .....	2
<b>3</b>	<b>Results .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Conclusions .....</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Figures .....</b>	<b>6</b>

## List of Tables

Table 1. Saintdoolaghs townland placename meaning. ....	1
---	---

## List of Figures

Figure 1: Location map.

Figure 2: Ceiling orthorectified image of the Baptistry.

Figure 3: Thermal image of Baptistry, overlying orthophoto.

Figure 4: Thermal interpretations of the ceiling of the Baptistry.

Figure 5: North window of the Baptistry.

Figure 6: North window of Baptistry, thermal image.

Figure 7: Interpretations of north window of Baptistry.

Figure 8: South window of the Baptistry.

Figure 9: South window of Baptistry, thermal image

Figure 10: Interpretations of south window of the Baptistry.

Figure 11: East window of the Baptistry.

Figure 12: East window of Baptistry, thermal image.

Figure 13: Interpretations of east window of the Baptistry.

Figure 14: West window of the Baptistry.

Figure 15: West window of Baptistry, thermal image.

Figure 16: Interpretations of west window of the Baptistry.

Figure 17: Northeast façade of the Baptistry.

Figure 18: Thermal image of northeast façade of the Baptistry.

Figure 19: Interpretations of northeast façade of the Baptistry.

Figure 20: Northwest façade of the Baptistry.

Figure 21: Thermal image of northwest façade of the Baptistry.

Figure 22: Interpretations of northwest façade of the Baptistry.

Figure 23: Southeast façade of the Baptistry.

Figure 24: Thermal image of southeast façade of the Baptistry.

Figure 25: Interpretations of southeast façade of the Baptistry.

Figure 26: Southwest façade of the Baptistry.

Figure 27: Thermal image of southwest façade of the Baptistry.

Figure 28: Interpretations of southwest façade of the Baptistry.

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviation/Acronym	Definition
<b>AMS</b>	Archaeological Management Solutions
<b>CMF</b>	Community Monuments Fund
<b>CMP</b>	Conservation Management Plan
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information System
<b>ITM</b>	Irish Transverse Mercator
<b>RGB</b>	Red, Green, Blue
<b>WMS</b>	Web Map Service

## Coordinate Reference System

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

## 1 Introduction

Archaeological Management Solutions (AMS) were engaged to carry out a Conservation Management Plan (CMP), funded by the Community Monuments Fund (CMF), for the site of St Doulagh's, County Dublin. This report describes the results of a thermal imaging survey carried out at the Baptistry of St Doulagh's Well, which forms part of the ecclesiastical complex of St Doulagh's, in north County Dublin. The thermal survey was carried out to compliment and inform the CMP for the site. In particular, the potential ability of thermal imaging to detect the possible presence of remaining elements of murals within the Baptistry. The survey focused on the interior of the Baptistry.

### 1.1 Site Location

St. Doulagh's Well,<sup>1</sup> of which the Baptistry is part of, is located in St Doulagh's Field and c.50m north of St Doulagh's Church, in the townland of Saintdoolaghs, County Dublin (Figure 1).

**Table 1. Saintdoolaghs townland placename meaning.**

Townland Name (English)	Barony	Civil Parish	Townland Name (Irish)	Suggested Translation
Saintdoolaghs	Coolock	Balgriffin	<i>Chlochar Dúiligh</i>	Stony Place <sup>2</sup>

### 1.2 Purpose and Scope of the Assessment

The purpose of the thermal and orthophotography survey was to inform and compliment a CMP for St Doulagh's, County Dublin. In particular, the potential ability of thermal imaging to detect the presence of remaining elements of murals within the Baptistry of St Doulagh's Well.

This aim was achieved using the following objectives:

- Identify any thermal anomalies of possible archaeological origin within the specified survey area.
- Describe the anomalies and discuss their likely provenance in a written report.
- Incorporate all the above into a report for the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's, and the Friends of St Doulagh's Church.
- Preparation and submission of archives of the project data and reports.

---

<sup>1</sup> ITM: 721071, 742151

<sup>2</sup> Available at: <https://www.logainm.ie/en/17282> [Accessed: 12 September 2024]

## 2 Methodology

### 2.1 Thermal and RGB Surveys

The thermal imaging survey was undertaken by Liamóg Roche (Geophysical and Remote Sensing Director) and Jeff O'Neill (Geophysical and Remote Sensing Supervisor) of AMS. The survey utilised a DJI Zenmuse H20T high resolution orthophotography camera mounted on a DJI Matrice 300 RTK to capture sequential thermal and RGB imagery for the creation of orthorectified imagery. This was achieved using the captured RGB imagery and the 3D modelling software Agisoft Metashape Professional to produce orthorectified imagery.

The thermal imagery was orthorectified and overlain on the RGB data using QGIS. The detailed thermal survey captured sequential radiometric thermal imagery using a DJI Zenmuse H20T 650 x 512 Radiometric Thermal Camera mounted on a DJI Matrice 300 RTK. A minimum of 70% image overlap was used for both the thermal and RGB data capture.

#### 2.1.1 Data Processing

The RGB data were processed using Agisoft Metashape Professional to produce 3D models and orthorectified imagery. The thermal data were overlain on the orthorectified imagery using QGIS.

#### 2.1.2 Data Visualisation

The thermal and RGB data were brought into QGIS for display and interpretation as orthorectified images.

### 2.2 Data Management, Processing, and Interpretation

This project used QGIS (Version 3.22.14) as a Geographic Information System (GIS) to manage the project. QGIS is an open-source GIS which can be used to create, edit, visualise, analyse and publish geospatial information.<sup>3</sup> This project used the long-term release version of the software (3.22.14) as the basic platform to access, view and analyse the visualisations produced in Agisoft Metashape Professional. QGIS also allowed us to compare the visualisations with other relevant geospatial databases, record the analysis through digitising the morphology and magnitude of anomalies identified, and output a table catalogue of this analysis and corresponding maps.

For the purposes of this project, the following datasets were also accessed and/or downloaded:

- Townlands vector layer.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> QGIS. Quantum GIS v3.22.14. Available at: <https://www.qgis.org/en/site/>

<sup>4</sup> Vector layer downloaded from: [www.townlands.ie](http://www.townlands.ie); townland names confirmed against the OS townlands list from <https://data.gov.ie/dataset/townland>.



The following vector layers were generated for the project:

- A polygon for the study area.
- Polygons for each identified thermal anomaly.

All anomalies are defined by polygons.

### 3 Results

The thermal data and thermal interpretation (Figure 2 to Figure 28) should be cross referenced with the descriptions (below) for a discussion of the anomalies. The responses across the survey area were generally good, although the presence of differential heating and damage to the plaster on a number of areas on the interior of the Baptistry created thermal noise or interference in a number of areas.

Thermal survey results from areas within the widow arches were impacted by differential heating, caused by sunlight. This makes interpretation of anomalies within these areas more difficult. Similarly, large temperature variations were created by the window and door openings when present within the thermal cameras field of view. This created broad thermal contrasts which can limit the visibility of more subtle variations. Although this was partially mitigated against by narrowing the visible temperature ranges represented by colour palettes, it is possible that more subtle variations which may indicate the presence of murals may not be represented by clear contrasts. The most promising results came from the main ceiling and those of the upper window openings. These areas saw much lower impact from differential heating and broad temperature ranges.

A total of seventeen areas of thermal contrast were identified within the Baptistry [C1 to C17]. The majority of these thermal contrasts present as amorphous anomalies which are difficult to definitively attribute to potential surviving aspects of murals. Despite this, the identified contrasts could not be attributed to differential heating caused by the window openings or visible damage to the plaster. This suggests that these contrasts may relate to thermal variations of less visible or underlying materials. While this could indicate surviving aspects of murals within these areas, the possibility that the contrasts relate to conditions such as damage or moisture underlying the plaster, which can also present thermal contrasts, cannot be ruled out.

Nine of these thermal contrasts are of further note [C1, C4, C5, C6, C10, C11, C12, C13, C16] as they appear to correspond with areas of colour variation visible on the plaster. This further suggests an origin other than underlying damage or moisture variation for these anomalies. Finally, anomaly C14 may present the most potential for the indication of surviving mural elements. It is roughly cruciform in morphology and is located within the upper portion of the south-east internal façade, one of the areas where the internal plaster appears better preserved. It does not appear to correspond to any visible damage, colour variation or differential heating from window openings.

## 4 Conclusions

The thermal imaging survey carried out within the Baptistry of St Doulagh's Well successfully identified the presence of potential archaeological deposits. Although a large amount of thermal noise and interference was present from differential heating and damage to the internal plaster, a total of seventeen areas of thermal contrast were identified [C1 to C17].




The majority of these thermal contrasts present as amorphous anomalies that are difficult to definitively attribute to potential surviving aspects of murals. Despite this, the identified contrasts could not be attributed to differential heating caused by the window openings or visible damage to the plaster. This suggests that these contrasts may relate to thermal variations of less visible or underlying materials.

While this could indicate surviving aspects of murals within these areas, the possibility that the contrasts relate to conditions such as damage or moisture underlying the plaster, which can also present thermal contrasts, cannot be ruled out.

Nine of these thermal contrasts are of further note [C1, C4, C5, C6, C10, C11, C12, C13, C16] as they appear to correspond with areas of colour variation visible on the plaster. This further suggests an origin other than underlying damage or moisture variation for these anomalies. Finally, anomaly C14 may present the most potential for the indication of surviving mural elements. It is roughly cruciform in morphology and is located within the upper portion of the southeast internal façade. It does not appear to correspond to any visible damage, colour variation or differential heating from window openings.

## Figures



<b>FIGURE 01</b>	
Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry Location Map	
Project: Thermal Imaging Survey at St. Doulagh's Baptistry, Co. Dublin	
Client:	
Job No: J3529	
Scale: 1:10,000	
Date: 05/11/2024	
Drawn by: L.R	
Revision: 1.0	
 St. Doulagh's Baptistry	 Townland
Notes: Background Map: Google Satellite © 2024 Google Townland Data: © OSI	
	





## FIGURE 02

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
Ceiling Orthorectified Image

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin

Client:

Job No: J3529

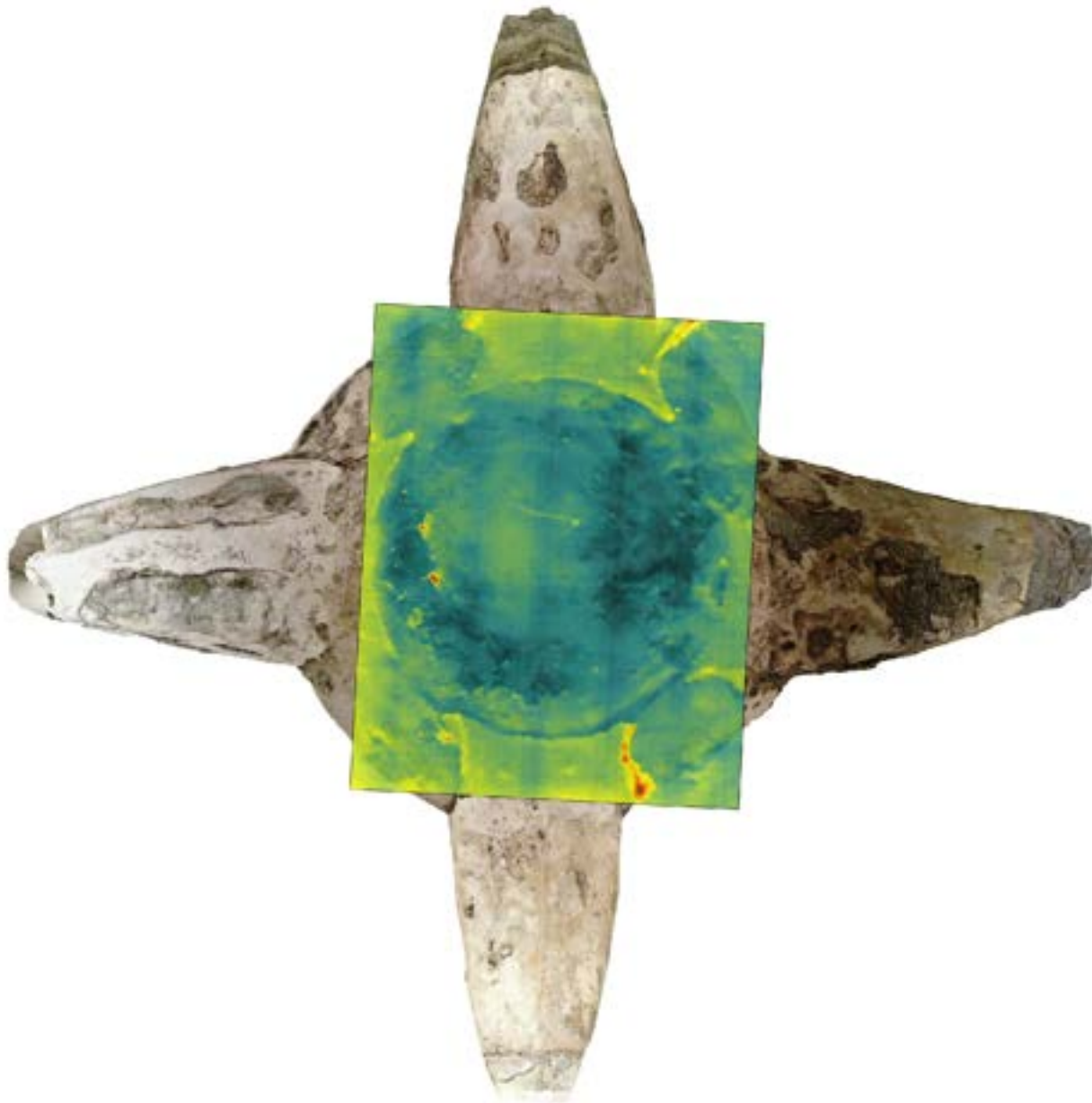
Date: 05/11/2024

Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

Notes:





### FIGURE 03

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
Ceiling Thermal Image  
Overlying Orthophoto

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin

Client:

Job No: J3529

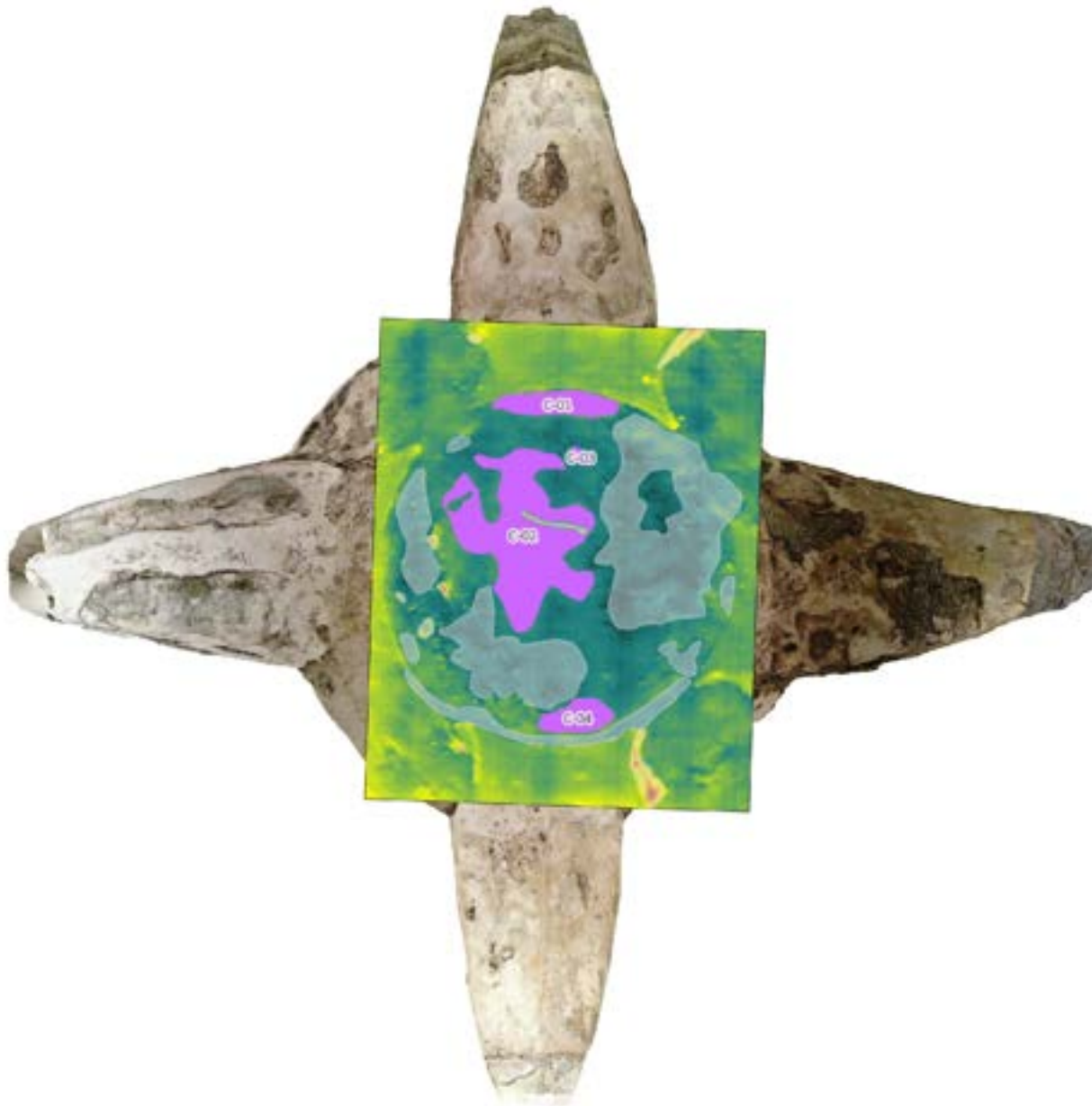
Date: 05/11/2024

Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

Notes:





## FIGURE 04

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
Ceiling Thermal Interpretations

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin



Client:

Job No: J3529

Date: 05/11/2024

Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

 Thermal Anomaly  
 Interference

Notes:





## FIGURE 05

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
North Window

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin

Client:

Job No: J3529

Date: 05/11/2024

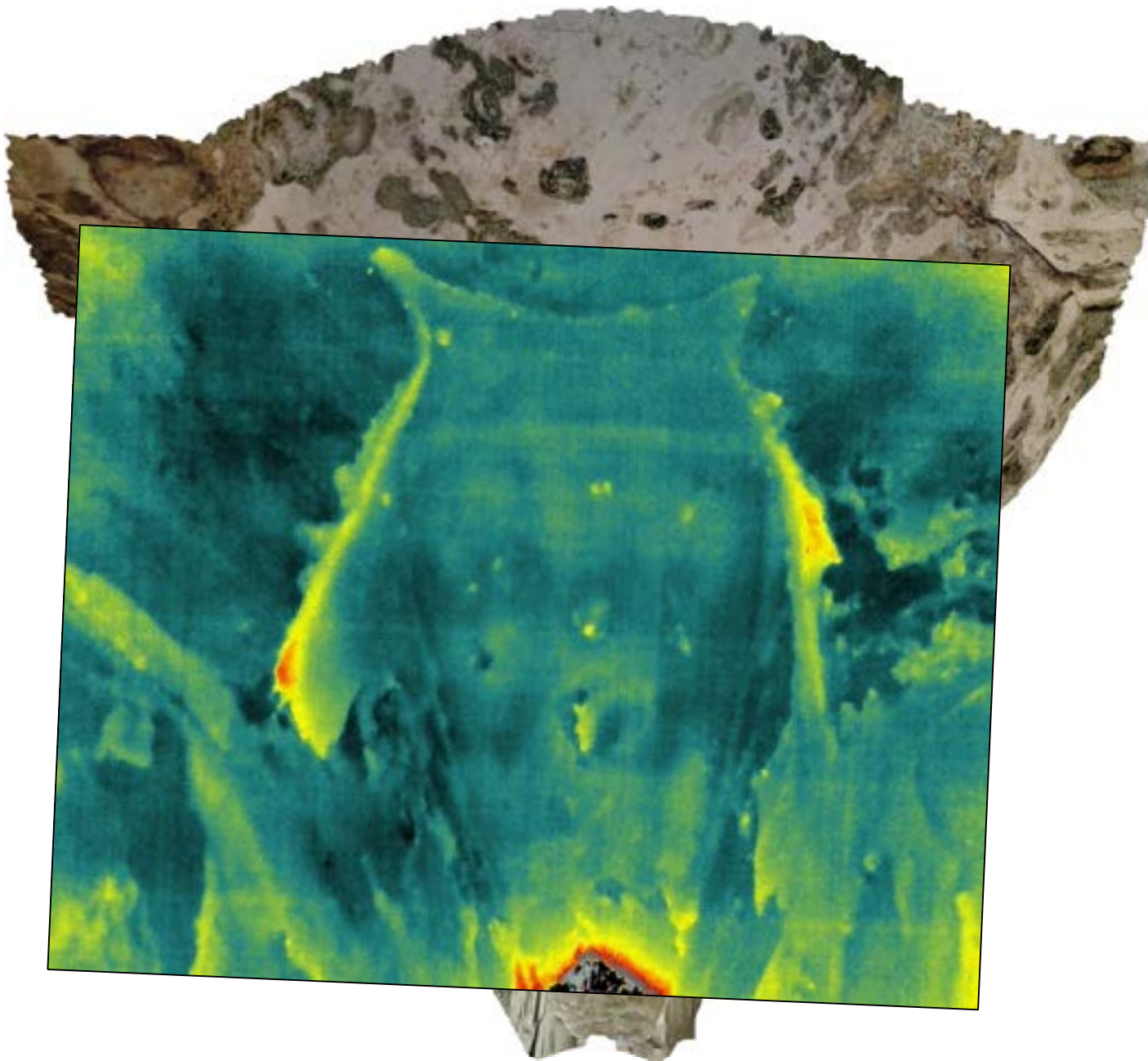
Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

Notes:







## FIGURE 06

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
North Window Thermal Image

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin

Client:

Job No: J3529

Date: 05/11/2024

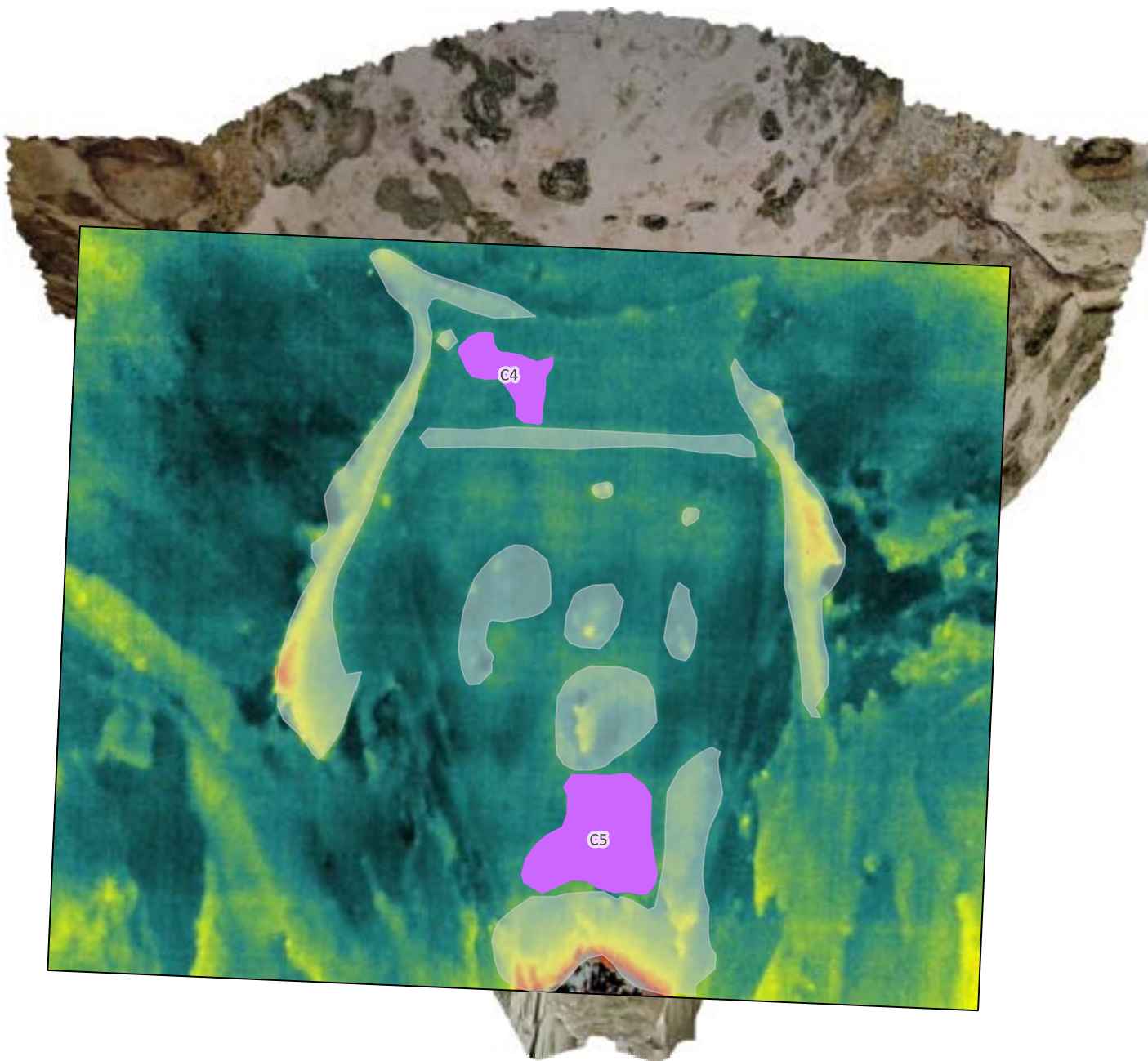
Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

Notes:







**FIGURE 07**

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
North Window Thermal  
Interpretations

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin



Client:

Job No: J3529

Date: 05/11/2024

Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

 Thermal Anomaly  
 Interference

Notes:





## FIGURE 08

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
South Window

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin

Client:

Job No: J3529

Date: 05/11/2024

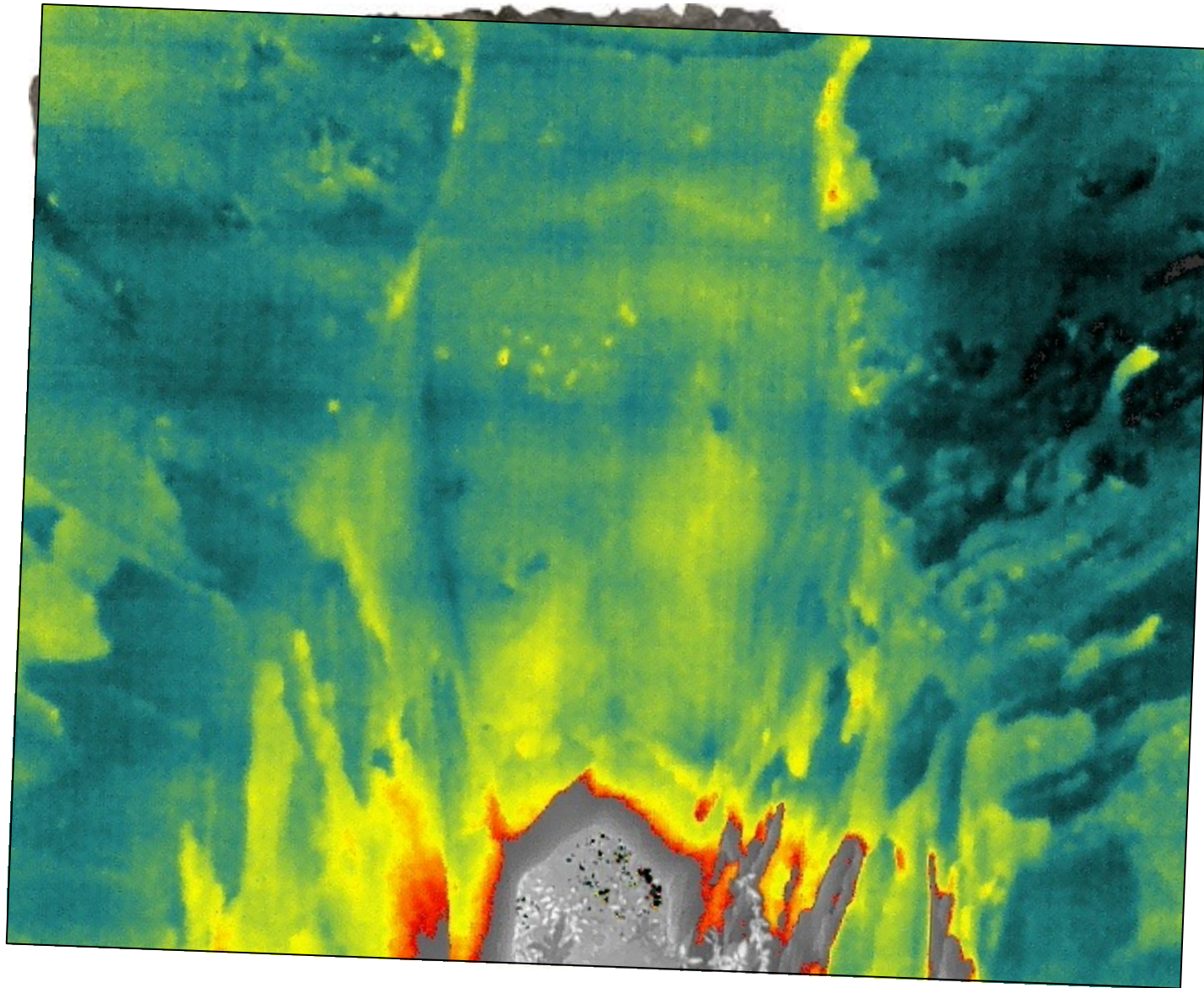
Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

Notes:







## FIGURE 09

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
South Window Thermal Image

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin

Client:

Job No: J3529

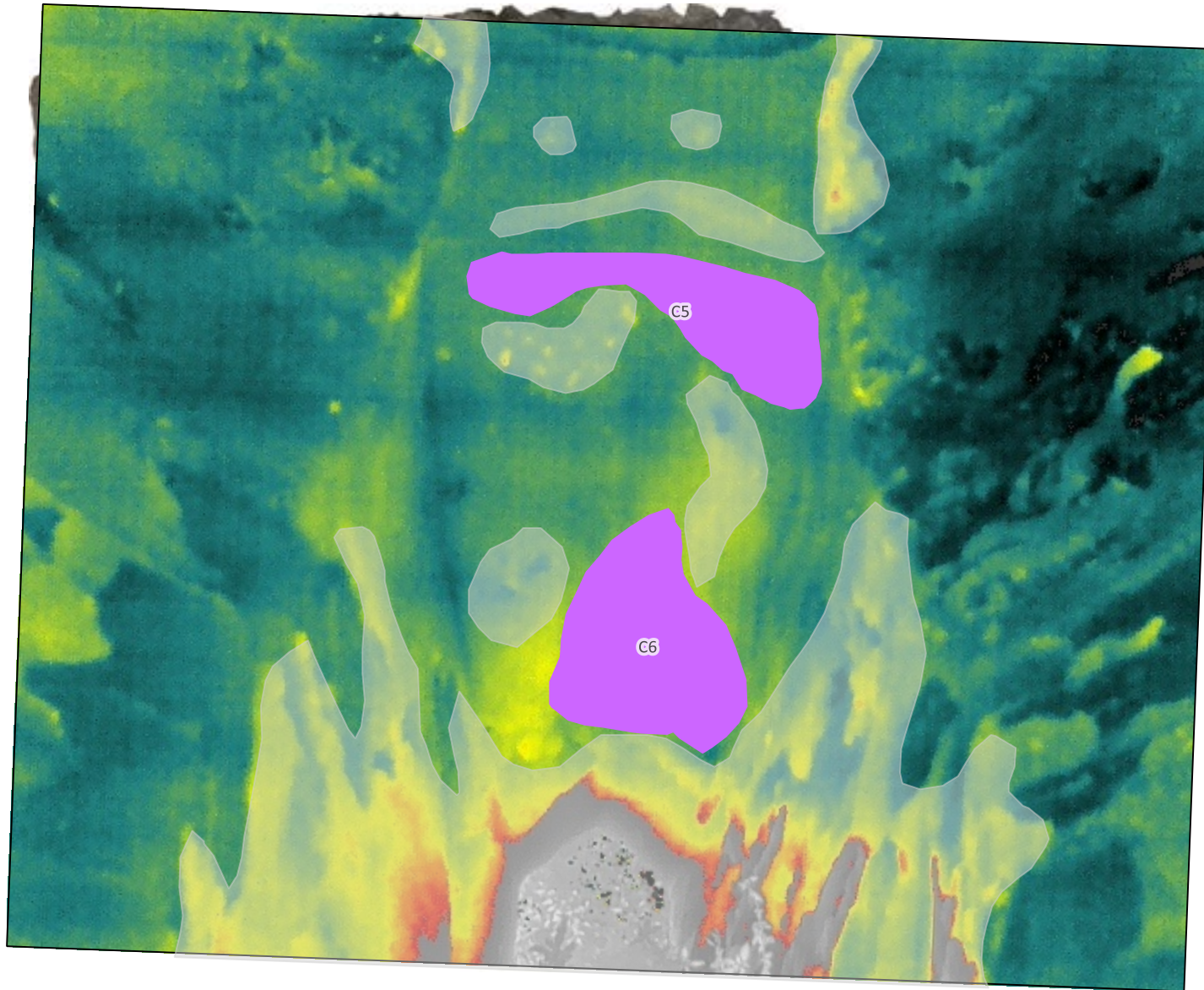
Date: 05/11/2024

Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

Notes:





**FIGURE 10**

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
South Window Thermal  
Interpretations

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin



Client:

Job No: J3529

Date: 05/11/2024

Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

 Thermal Anomaly  
 Interference

Notes:







## FIGURE 11

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
East Window

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin

Client:

Job No: J3529

Date: 05/11/2024

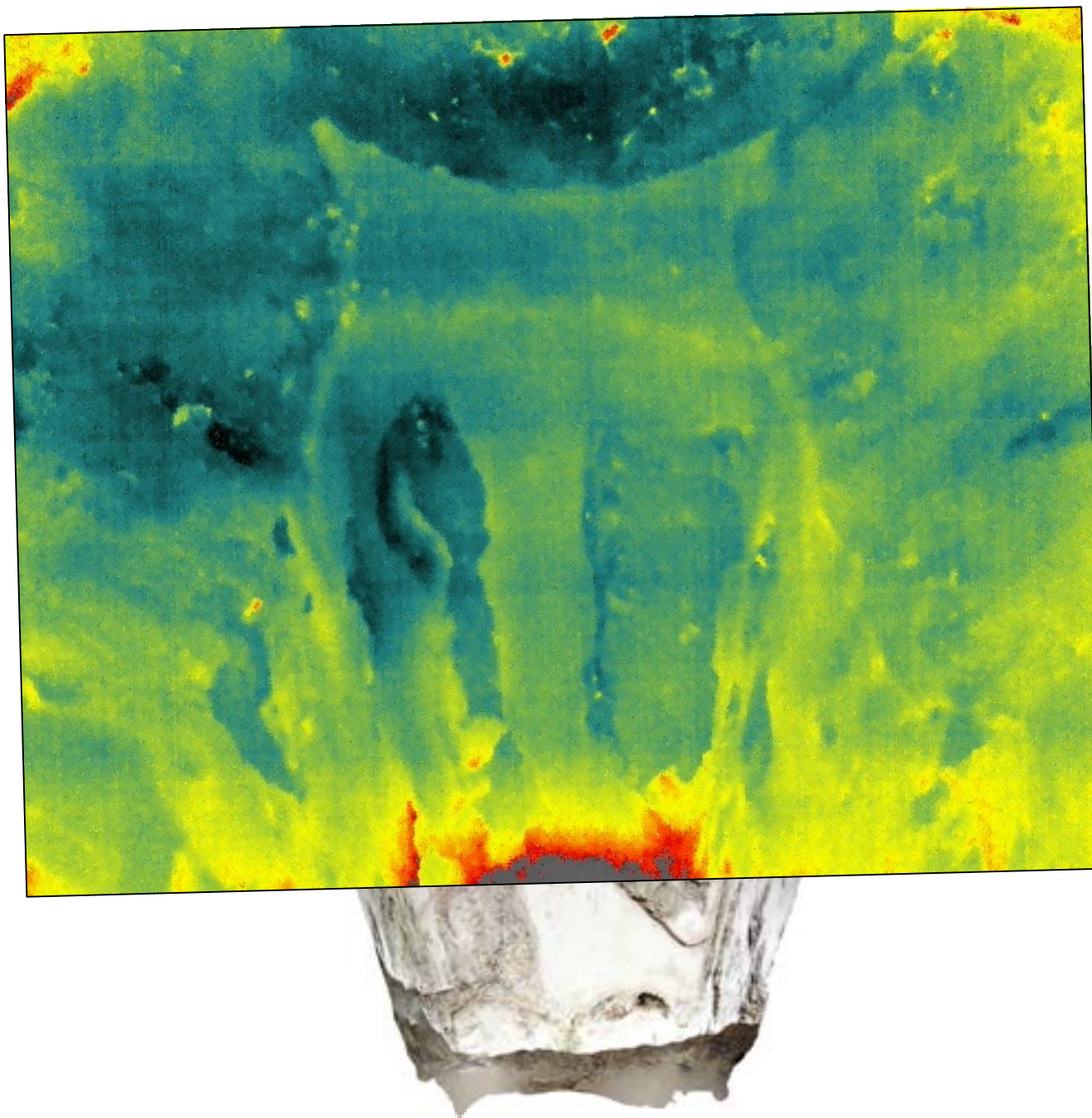
Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

Notes:







**FIGURE 12**

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
East Window Thermal Image

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin

Client:

Job No: J3529

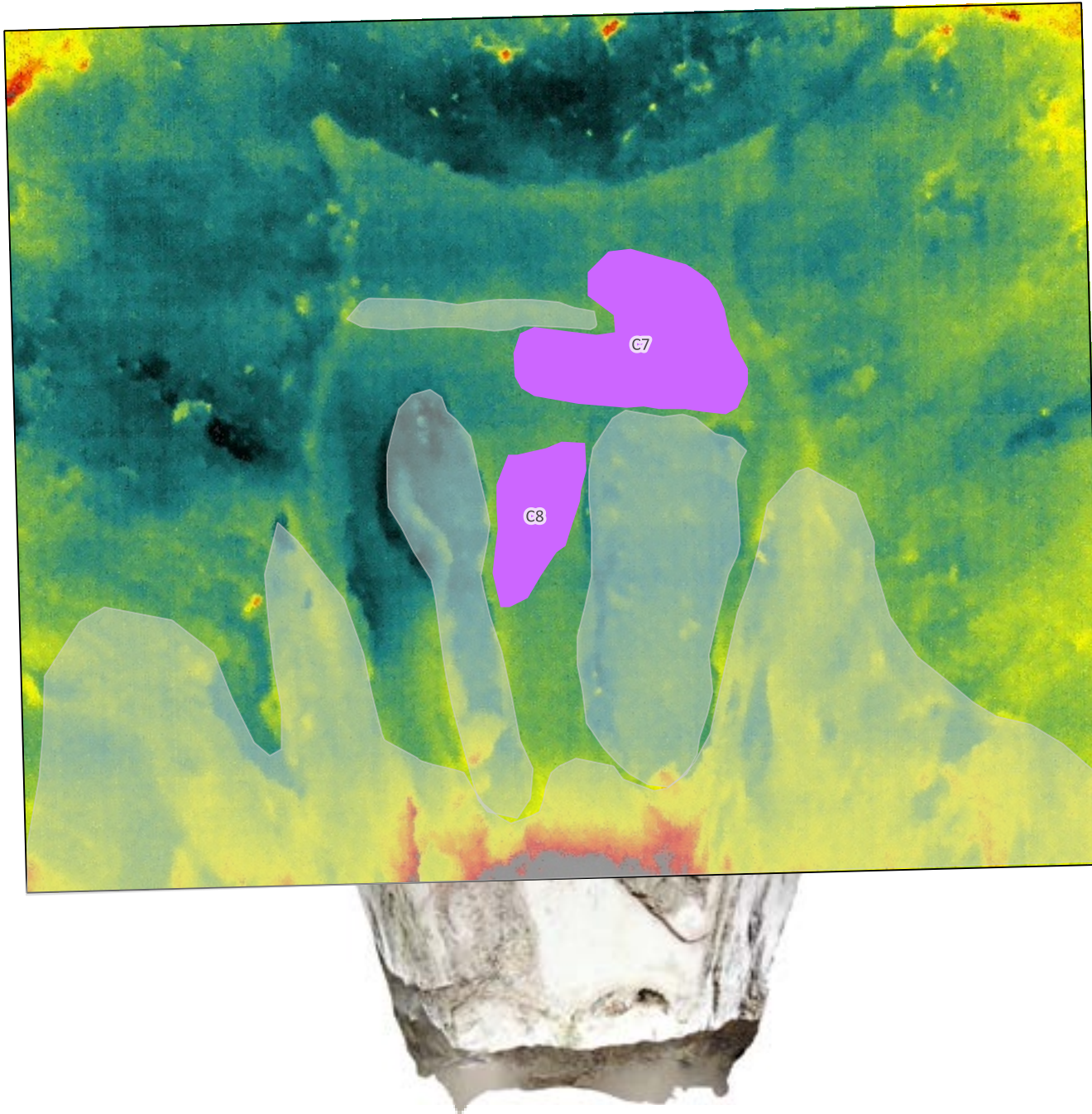
Date: 05/11/2024

Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

Notes:





**FIGURE 13**

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
East Window Thermal  
Interpretation

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin



Client:

Job No: J3529

Date: 05/11/2024

Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

 Thermal Anomaly  
 Interference

Notes:







## FIGURE 14

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
West Window

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin

Client:

Job No: J3529

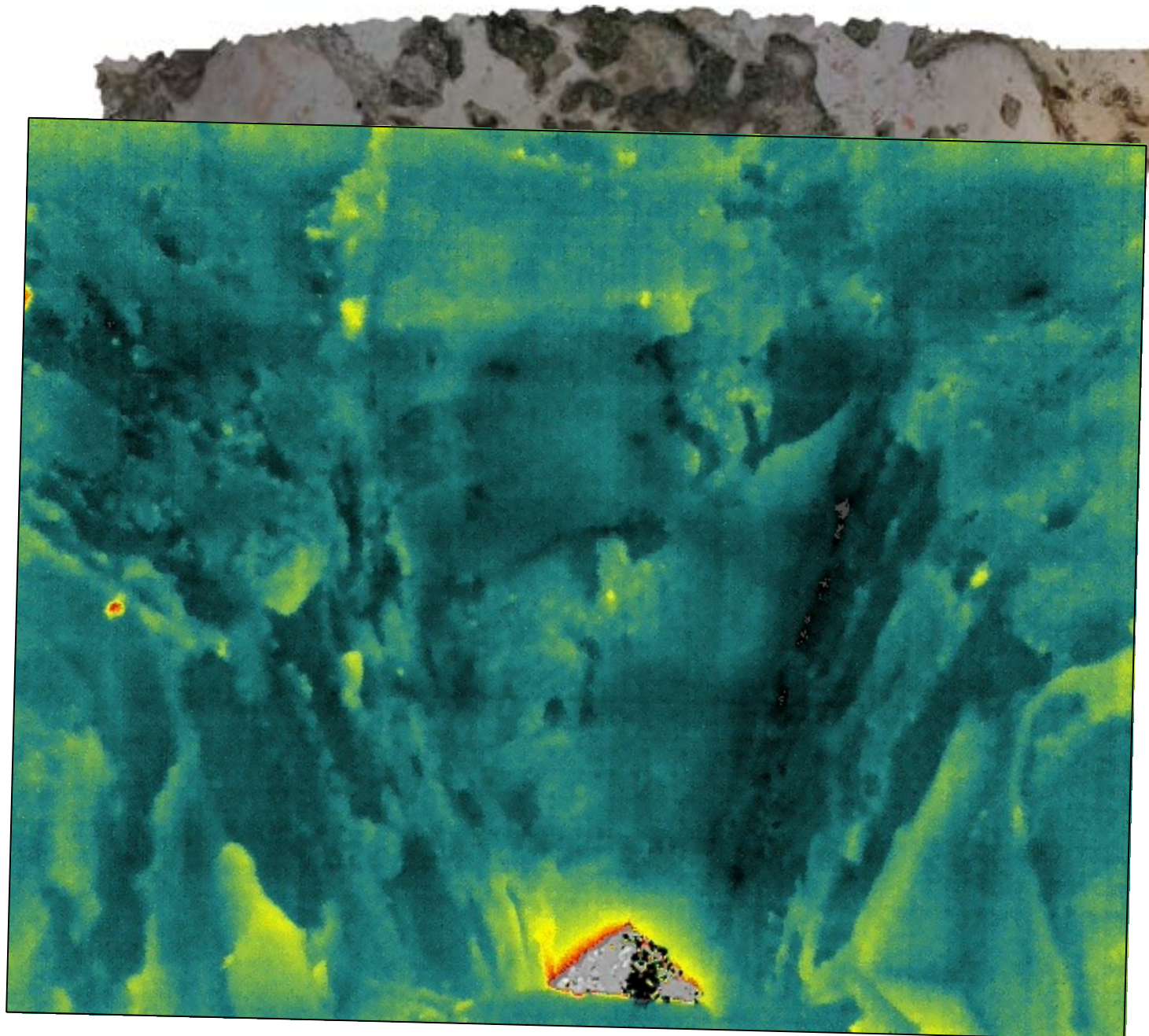
Date: 05/11/2024

Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

Notes:





**FIGURE 15**

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
West Window Thermal Image

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin

Client:

Job No: J3529

Date: 05/11/2024

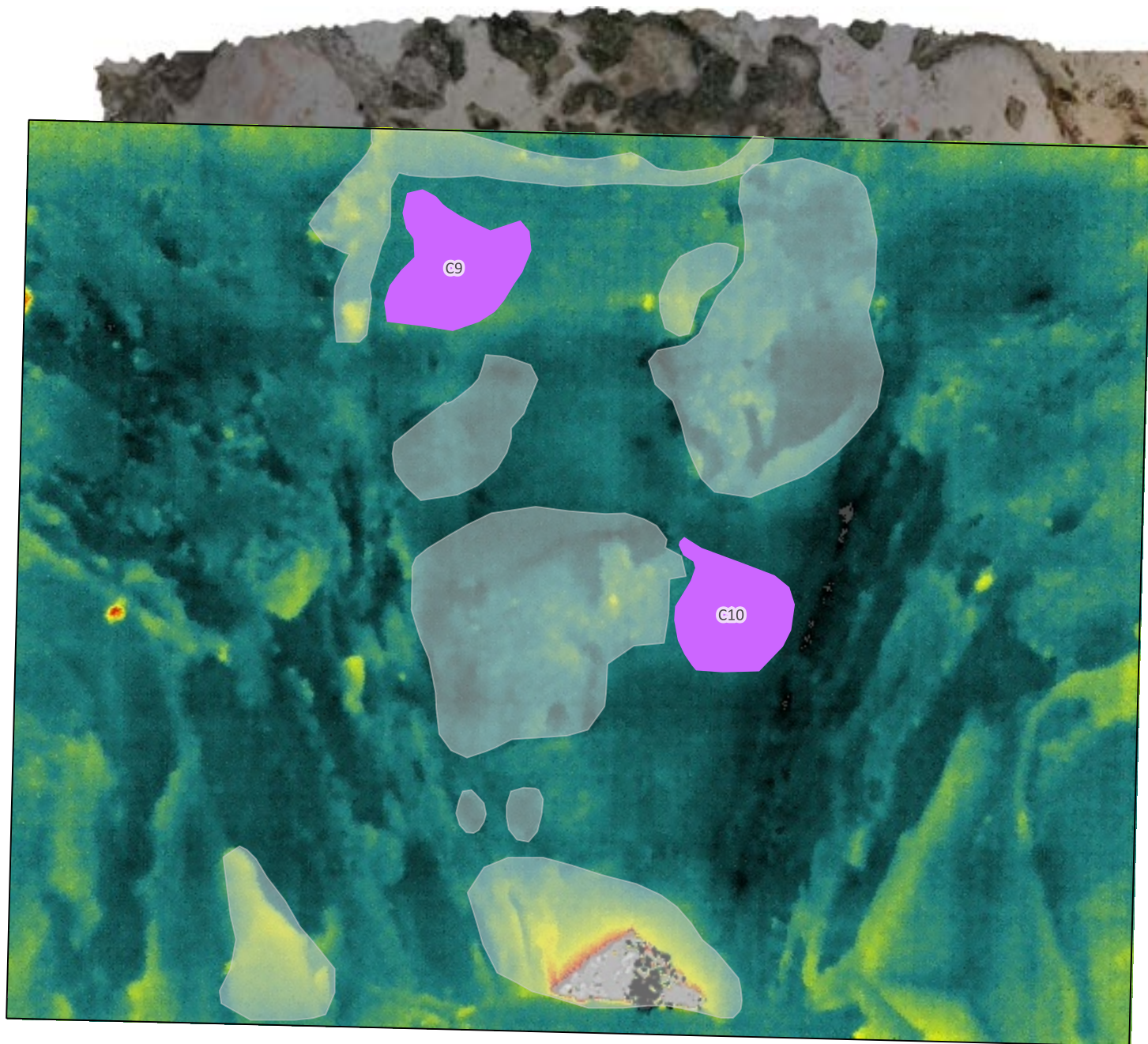
Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

Notes:







**FIGURE 16**

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
West Window Thermal  
Interpretation

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin



Client:

Job No: J3529

Date: 05/11/2024

Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

 Thermal Anomaly  
 Interference

Notes:







## FIGURE 17

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
North-East Facade

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin

Client:

Job No: J3529

Date: 05/11/2024

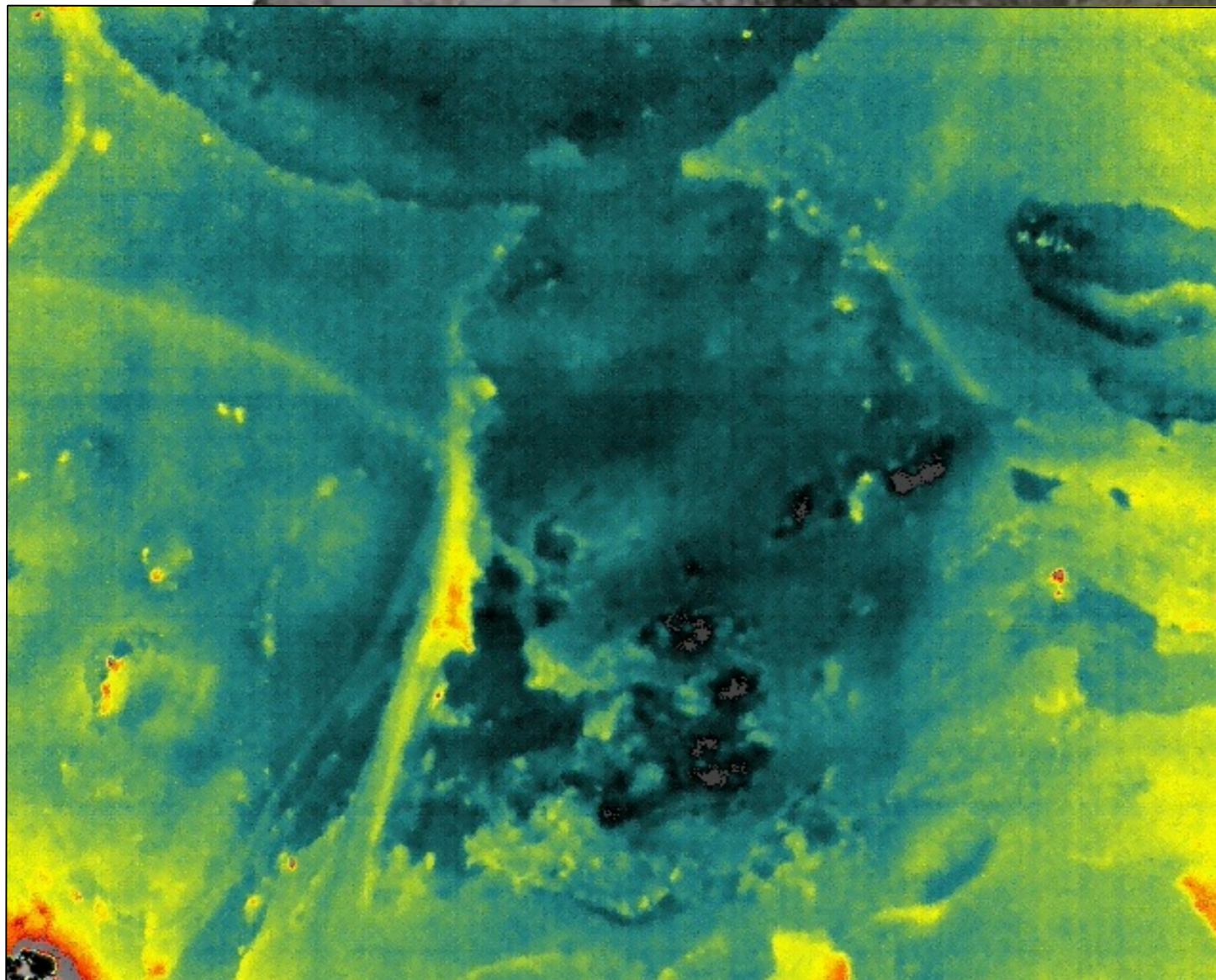
Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

Notes:







**FIGURE 18**

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
North-East Facade Thaermal  
Image

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin

Client:

Job No: J3529

Date: 05/11/2024

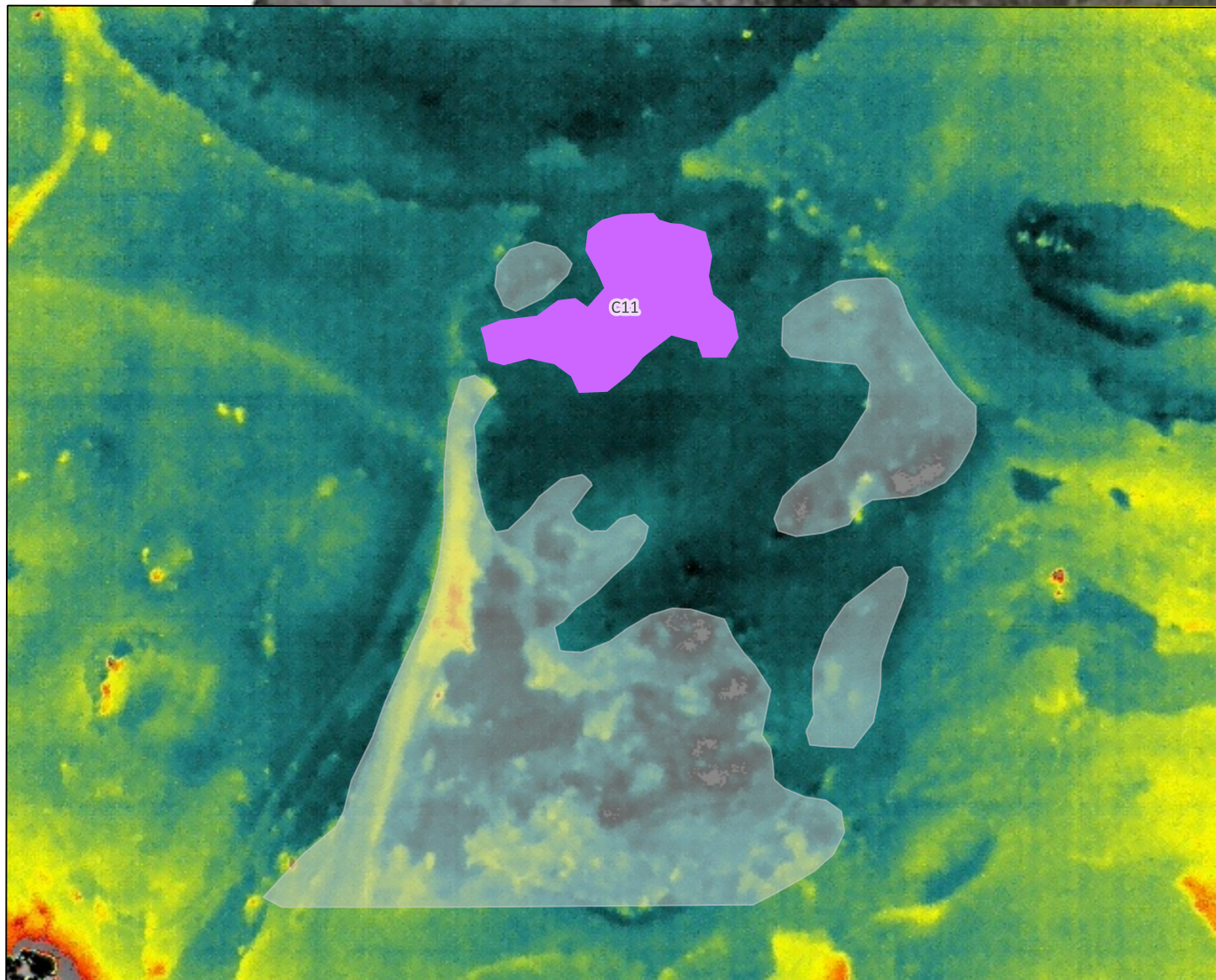
Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

Notes:







**FIGURE 19**

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
North-East Facade Thermal  
Interpretation

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin



Client:

Job No: J3529

Date: 05/11/2024

Drawn by: L.R

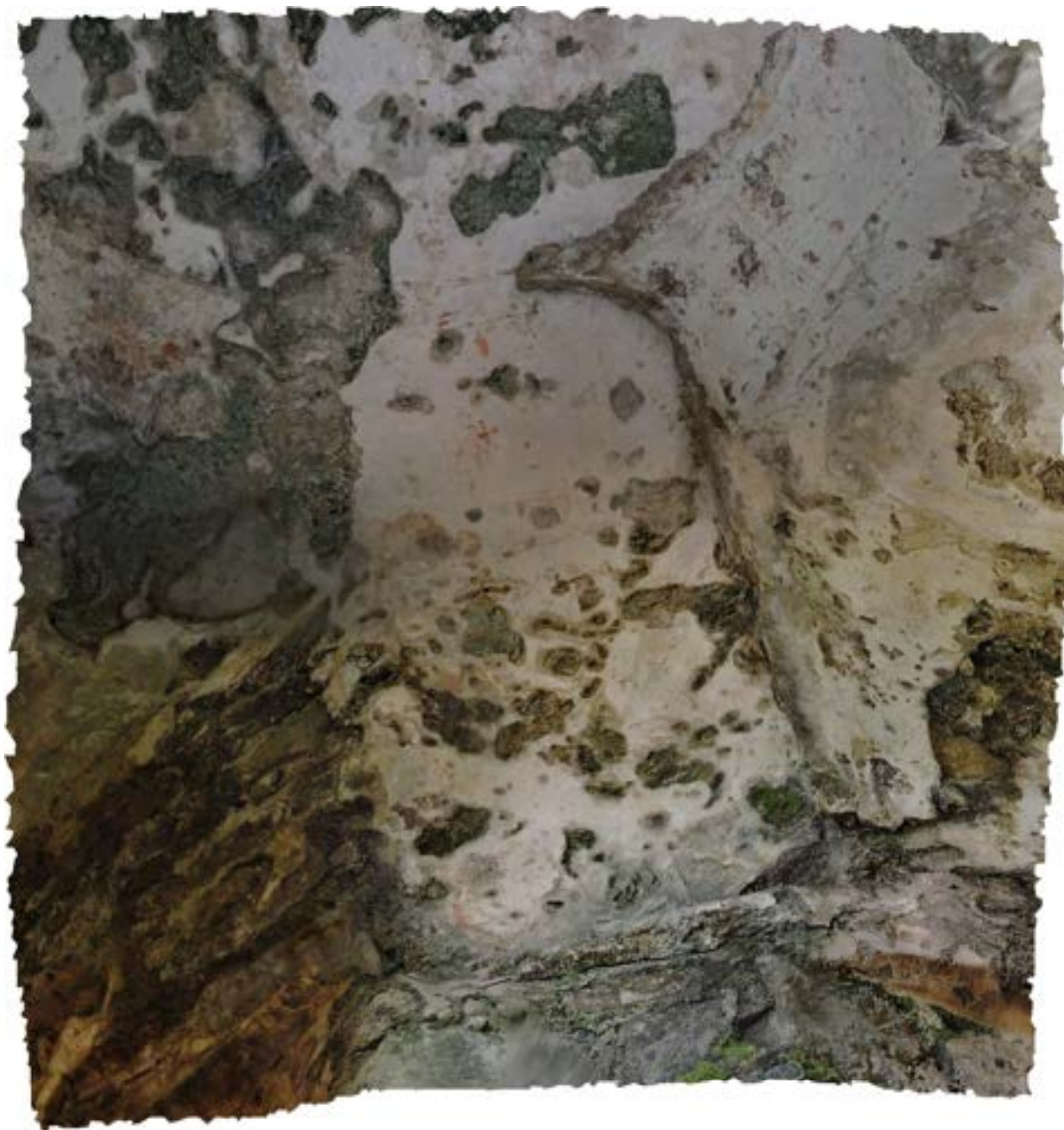
Revision: 1.0

 Thermal Anomaly  
 Interference

Notes:







## FIGURE 20

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
North-West Facade

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin

Client:

Job No: J3529

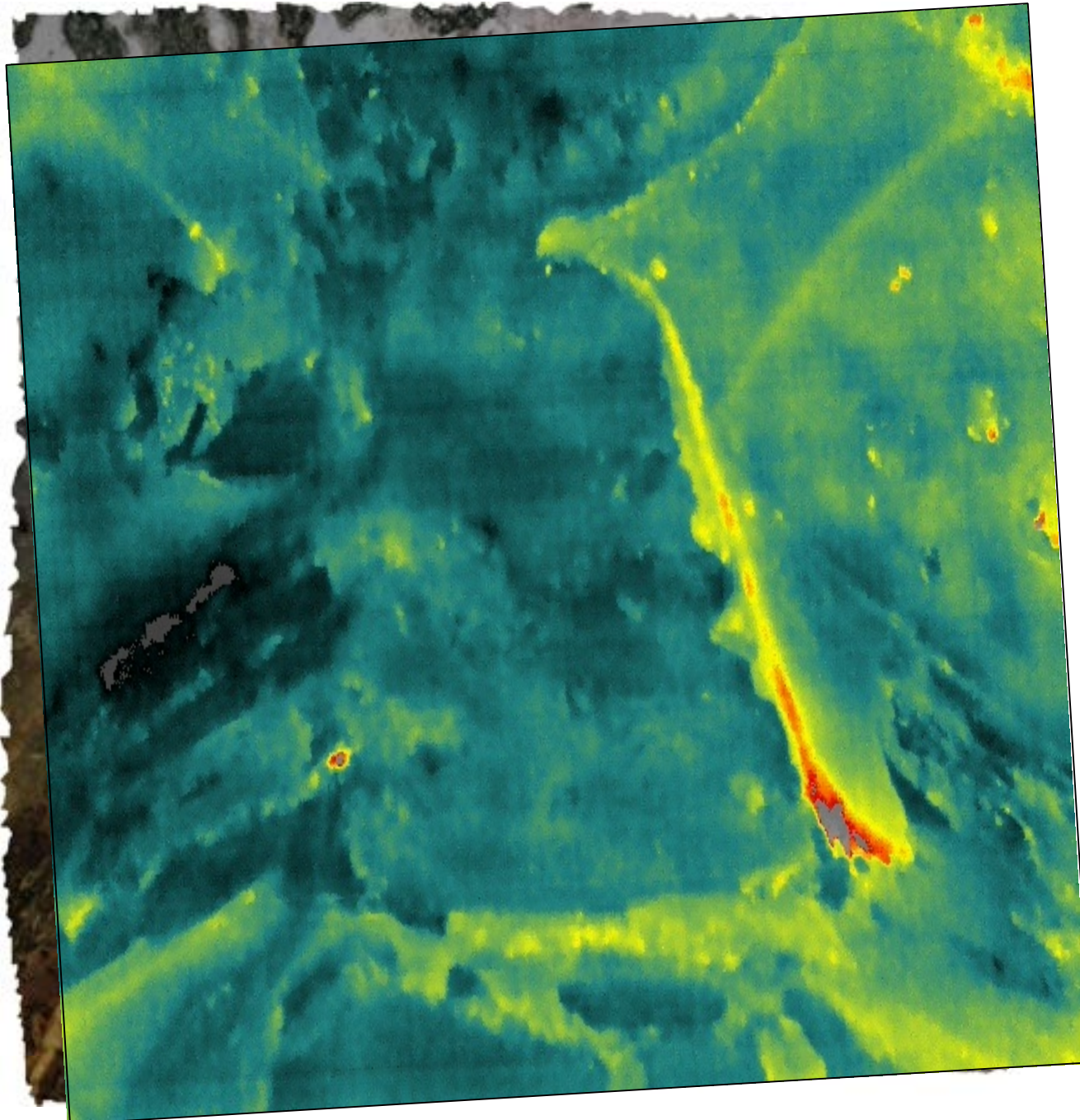
Date: 05/11/2024

Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

Notes:





**FIGURE 21**

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
North-West Facade Thermal  
Image

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin

Client:

Job No: J3529

Date: 05/11/2024

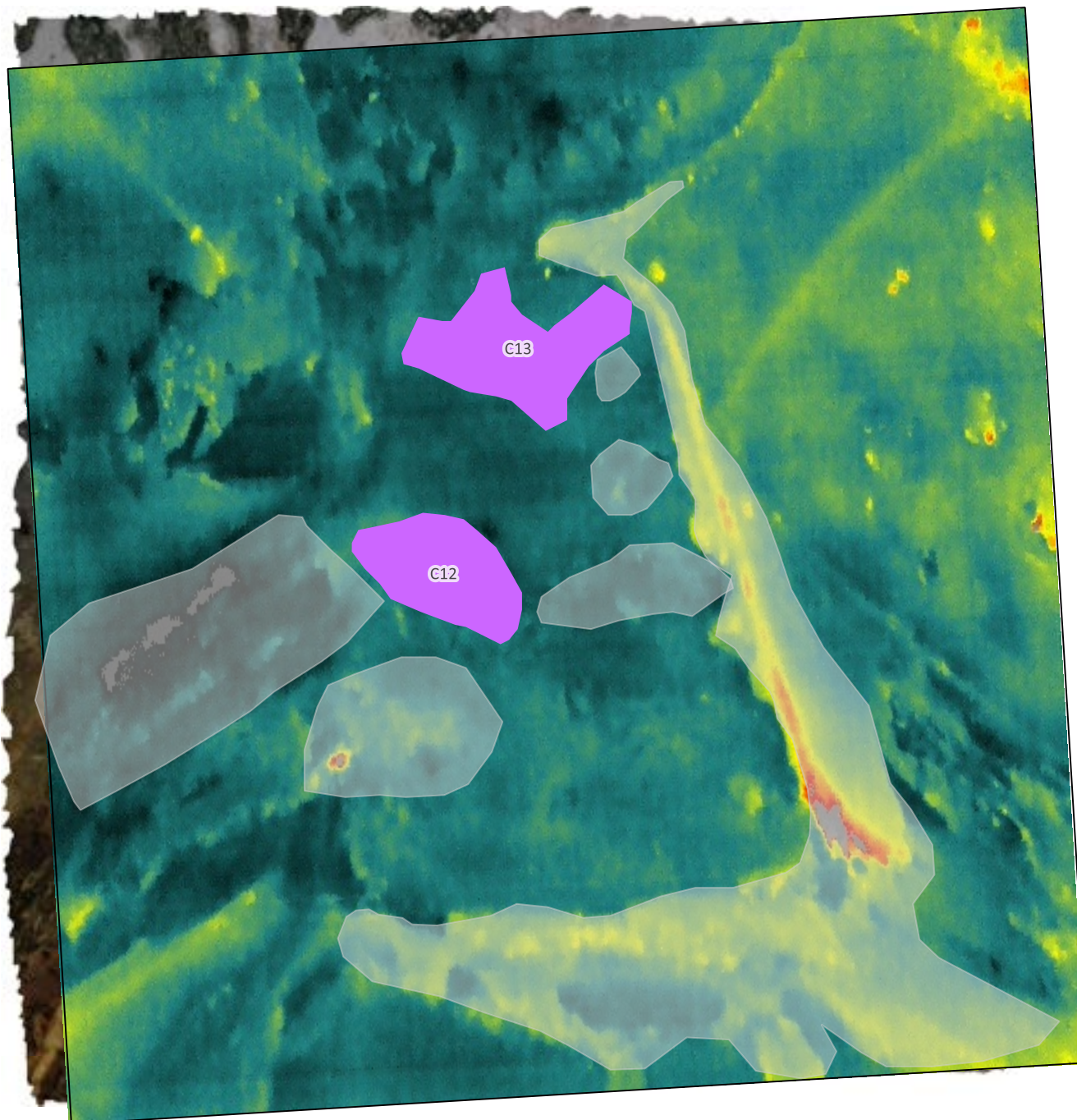
Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

Notes:







**FIGURE 22**

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
North-West Facade Thermal  
Interpretation

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin



Client:

Job No: J3529

Date: 05/11/2024

Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

 Thermal Contrast  
 Interference

Notes:





## FIGURE 23

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
South-East Facade

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin

Client:

Job No: J3529

Date: 05/11/2024

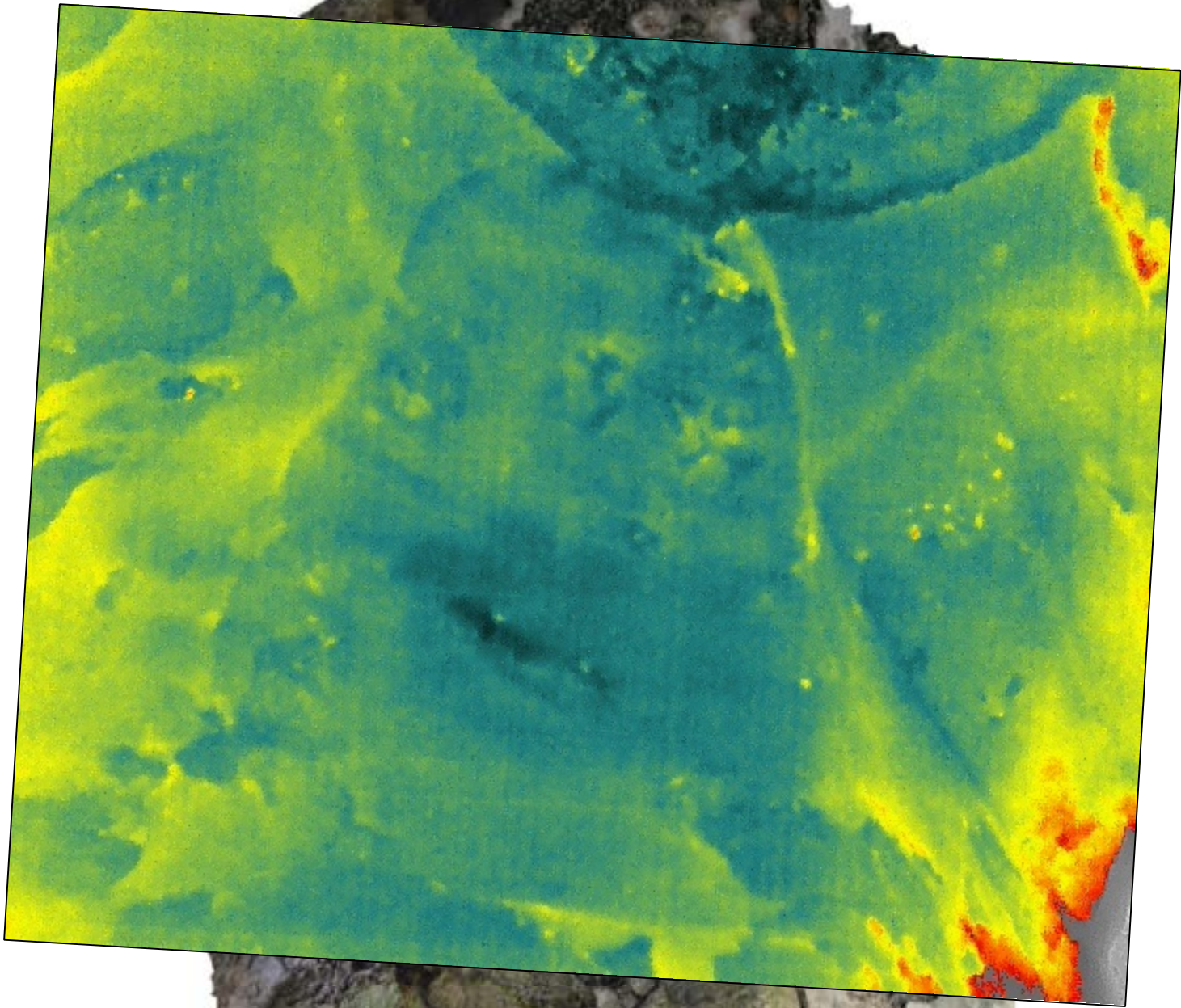
Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

Notes:







**FIGURE 24**

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
South-East Facade Thermal  
Image

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin

Client:

Job No: J3529

Date: 05/11/2024

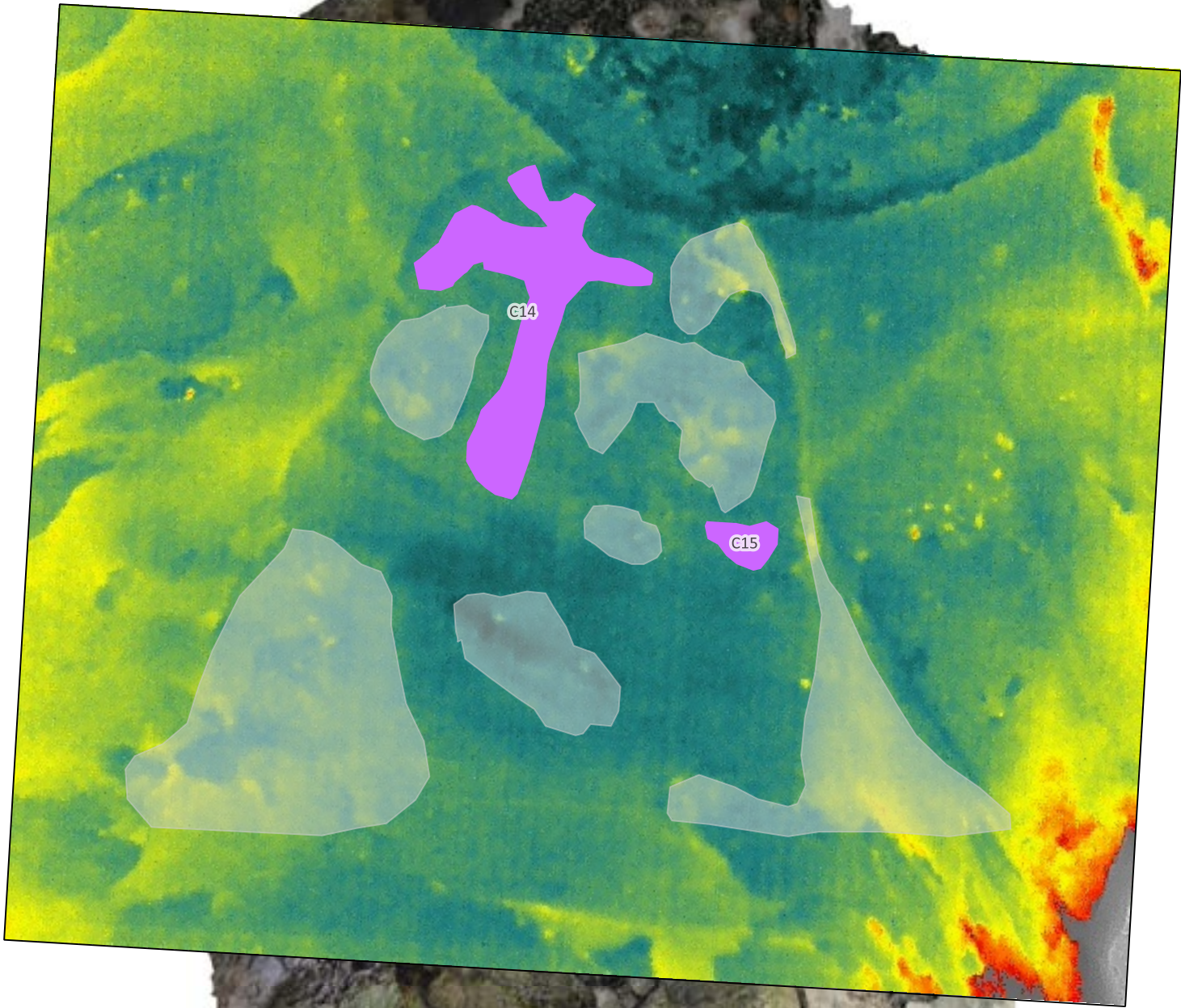
Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

Notes:







**FIGURE 25**

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
South-East Facade Thermal  
Interpretation

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin



Client:

Job No: J3529

Date: 05/11/2024

Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

-  Thermal Contrast
-  Interference

Notes:





## FIGURE 26

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
South-West Facade

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin

Client:

Job No: J3529

Date: 05/11/2024

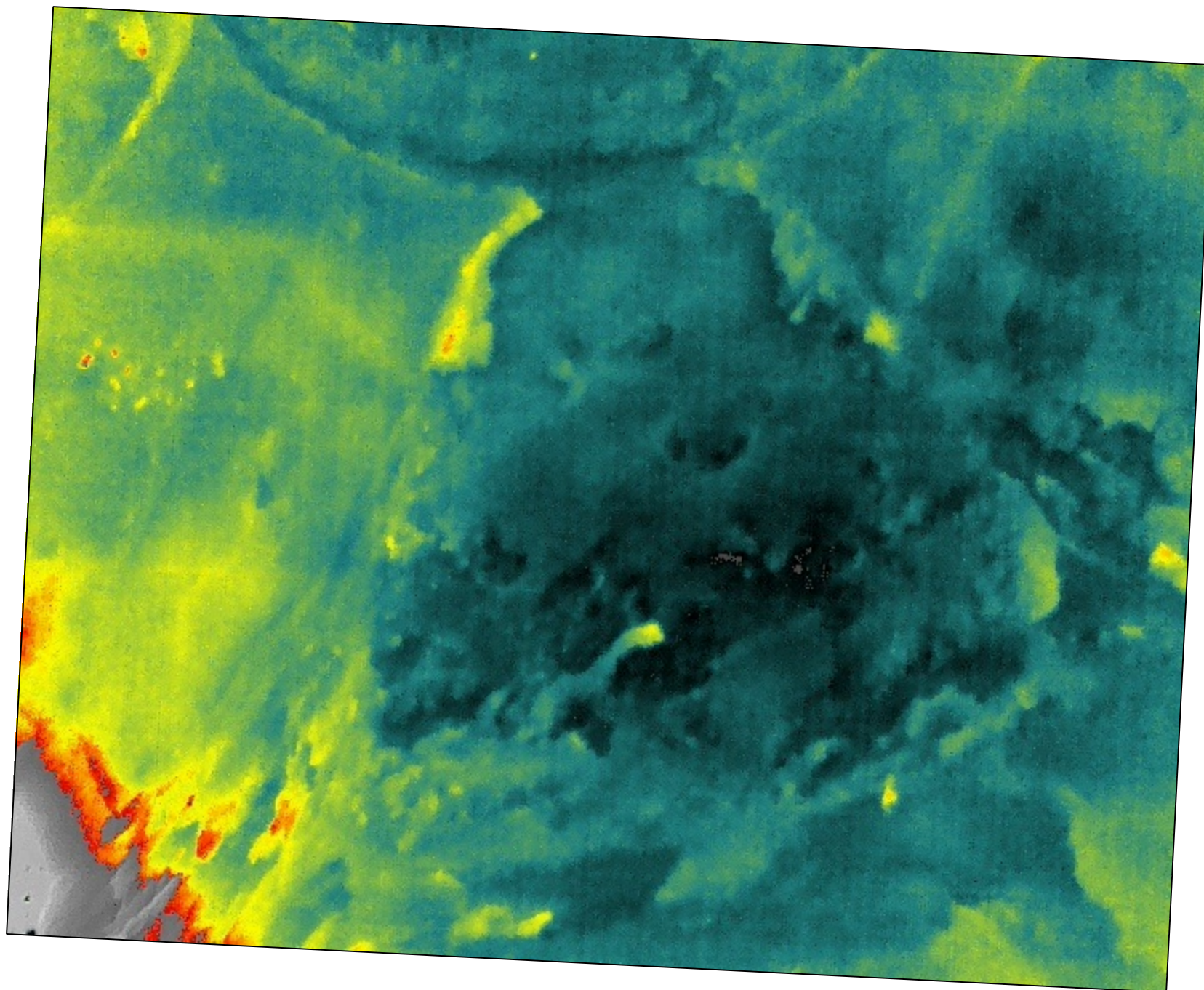
Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

Notes:







**FIGURE 27**

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
South-West Facade Thermal  
Image

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin

Client:

Job No: J3529

Date: 05/11/2024

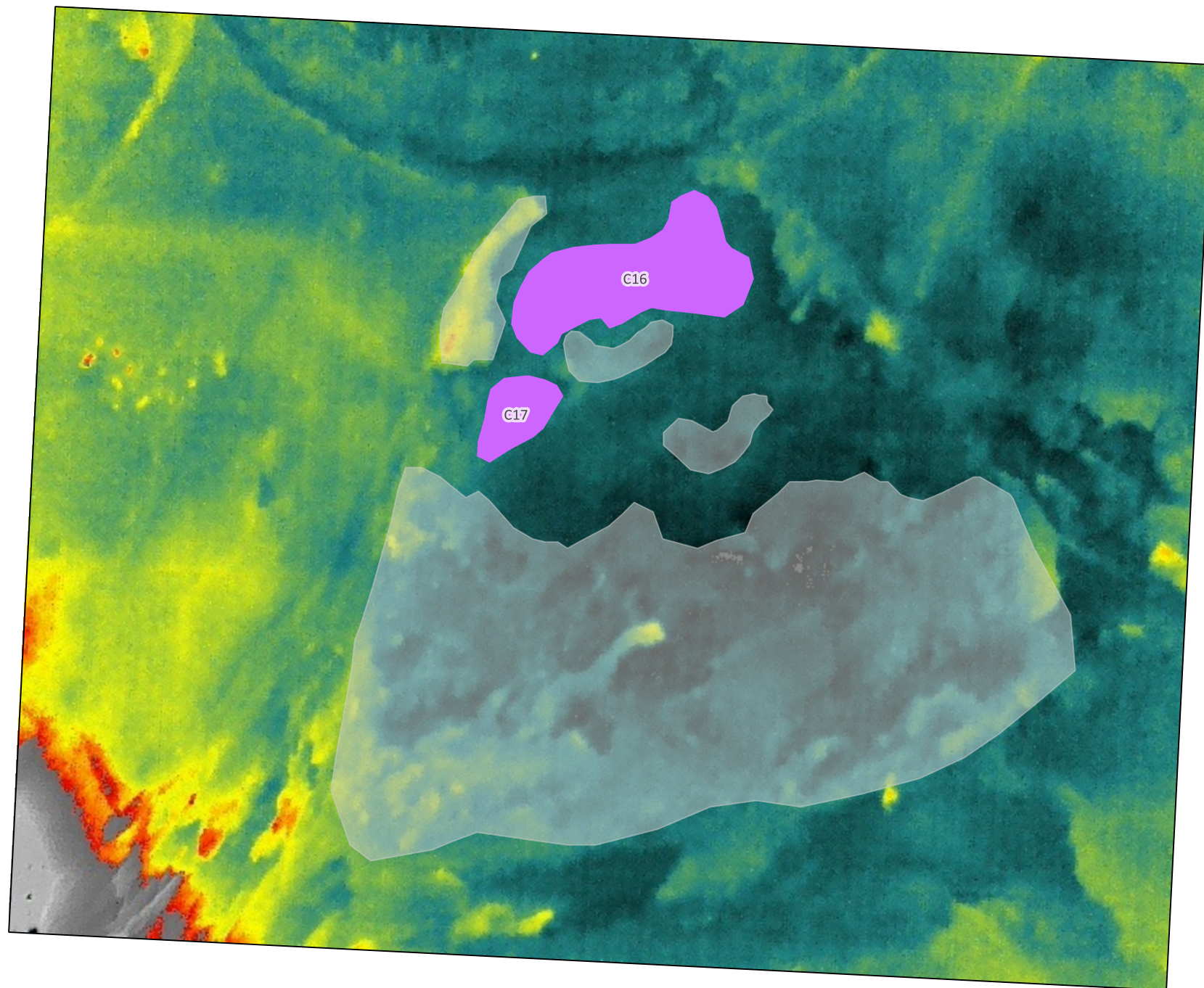
Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

Notes:







**FIGURE 28**

Title: St. Doulagh's Baptistry  
South-West Facade Thermal  
Interpretation

Project: Thermal Imaging  
Survey at St. Doulagh's  
Baptistry, Co. Dublin



Client:

Job No: J3529

Date: 05/11/2024

Drawn by: L.R

Revision: 1.0

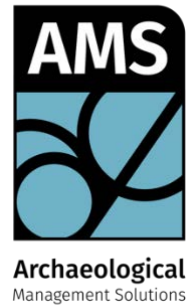
 ? Archaeology  
 Interference

Notes:





# Condition Survey: St Doulagh's Ecclesiastical Site, Saintdoolaghs, County Dublin



**By: Chris Southgate, Southgate Associates, and Ciara O'Flynn and Sara Marandola, Archaeological Management Solutions**

**For: The Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's, and the Friends of St Doulagh's Church**

**1 November 2024**

## Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b><i>Methodology</i></b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1	Role of the Built Heritage Specialists .....	1
<b>2</b>	<b><i>St Doulagh's Church</i></b> .....	<b>2</b>
2.1	East Window to East Gable .....	2
2.2	Medieval Clay Floors in Tower and Chancel .....	5
2.3	Walls of Tower and Chancel .....	5
2.4	Repairs to Victorian Floor in Nave .....	7
<b>3</b>	<b><i>The Baptistry</i></b> .....	<b>8</b>
3.1	Condition of Structure .....	8
3.2	Recommendations .....	9
<b>4</b>	<b><i>The Graveyard</i></b> .....	<b>12</b>
4.1	Memorials .....	12
4.2	Recommendations .....	12
<b>5</b>	<b><i>Conclusion and Recommendations</i></b> .....	<b>13</b>
5.1	Recommendations .....	13
5.2	Maintenance Recommendations.....	13
	<b><i>Plates</i></b> .....	<b>14</b>
	East Window to Chancel .....	18
	The Baptistry.....	25

## List of Tables

Table 1: Proposed conservation actions. ....	13
--	----

## List of Plates

Plate 1: General arrangement of church, facing west. ....	14
Plate 2: Detail of repointing works to chancel and tower, which were undertaken in 2018. ....	15
Plate 3: Detail of repointing works to tower, facing upwards to east.....	16
Plate 4: Detail of church and tower, east.....	16
Plate 5: The conservation works were carried out to a high standard. ....	17
Plate 6: In general, the nineteenth-century structure did not require conservation.....	18
Plate 7: During the 2018 conservation works a shelter coat was applied to the east window to the chancel.....	18
Plate 8: The details on the cill show that the shelter coat consisted of lime with a sand filler to provide thickness and stability to the shelter coat.....	19



Plate 9: Careful examination shows the east window was not originally in this position and the location is not original. ....	19
Plate 10: The central mullion shows alveolar, or honeycomb decay. The area is subject to extreme wetting and drying and salt crystallisation has caused spalling of the shelter coat.....	20
Plate 11: The southeast mullion also shows some signs of failure.....	21
Plate 12: This image demonstrates how the parent and shelter coat are harder than the parent sandstone.....	22
Plate 13: Secondary detail of harder parent and shelter coat.....	23
Plate 14: Decay on the sandstone cill shows parent material is likely to spall if not treated. ....	23
Plate 15: In one area only, cracking has occurred and material is likely to spall if not treated. ....	23
Plate 16: The pointing and deterioration of shelter coat on the northeast lancet; the adjacent lime pointing is in good condition. ....	24
Plate 17: The sandstone appears more friable than the surrounding pointing. ....	24
Plate 18: Minor faults in the putty should be addressed during repair.....	24
Plate 19: Approach northwards towards the Baptistry, a medieval structure of cruciform form.....	25
Plate 20: South elevation of Baptistry from the approach. ....	25
Plate 21: North elevation of Baptistry.....	26
Plate 22: String course of Baptistry, which is in need of repair. ....	26
Plate 23: View of Baptistry from northwest. ....	27
Plate 24: West elevation of Baptistry.....	27
Plate 25: St Catherine's Well, facing southwest.....	28
Plate 26: St Detail of immersion pit in Baptistry, facing north-northwest.....	28
Plate 27: Roof structure of St Catherine's Well. ....	28
Plate 28: Steps leading down to entrance of St Catherine's Well.....	29
Plate 29: Internal view of St Catherine's Well, facing west. ....	29
Plate 30: Internal view of St Catherine's Well, facing southwest. ....	30
Plate 31: Decay to vault ceiling of St Catherine's Well, facing south.....	31
Plate 32: Vegetation growing from craws in pointing of the Baptistry, facing northwest.....	32
Plate 32: The pointing on the wall of the Baptistry is in reasonable condition, facing northwest. ....	32
Plate 34: Detail of pointing on wall of Baptistry, facing east. ....	32
Plate 35: Decay to string course of Baptistry, which is allowing water ingress. ....	33
Plate 36: Decay to string course of Baptistry, facing southeast.....	33
Plate 37: Decay to string course of Baptistry, facing east.....	33
Plate 38: Condition of walls and ceiling in interior of Baptistry, facing southwest. ....	34
Plate 39: Condition of walls and ceiling in interior of Baptistry, facing west. ....	35
Plate 40: Interior walls of Baptistry, facing north. ....	36
Plate 41: Interior upper walls of Baptistry, facing north.....	36

Plate 42: Interior window in Baptistry, facing north.....	36
Plate 43: Ceiling in Baptistry. ....	37
Plate 44: Ceiling in Baptistry, facing north.....	37
Plate 45: Detail of ceiling in Baptistry from entrance.....	37
Plate 46: Damage to paving at entrance to Baptistry interior, facing west. ....	38
Plate 47: The steps to the Baptistry are in good condition. ....	38
Plate 48: Detail of render on Baptistry. ....	38
Plate 49: Detail of render on Baptistry. ....	39
Plate 50: The external retaining walls of the Baptistry are in reasonable condition.....	39
Plate 51: Vegetation on retaining walls of the Baptistry.....	39

# 1 Methodology

The aim of the Condition Survey/Technical Analysis for St Doulagh's was to identify threats to the significance of St Doulagh's and provide guidance on how best to conserve the significance and fabric of St Doulagh's into the future. Guidance is focused on the built heritage (upstanding remains) of the church, wells and graveyard.

St Doulagh's is located in the townland of Saintdoolaghs, County Dublin. The site lies to the west of the R107 Regional Road that leads north from Dublin to Malahide.

A site inspection for the purposes of Condition Assessment was carried out by Conservation Engineer, Chris Southgate, and Ciara O'Flynn, Built Heritage Specialist, over two days on the 28 May and 10 September 2024. A subsequent site inspection and walkover was undertaken by Sara Marandola on 1 November 2024 that focused on the condition of the Baptistry, the church and the graveyard.

The site inspections involved:

- Visual inspection;
- site walkover surveys; and,
- photographic surveys.

There was no opening up work as part of the surveys. Features and buildings were recorded by description and photographs with some hand measurements where required. The results of the survey suggest a phased approach to repair is required in order to prevent deterioration.

## 1.1 Role of the Built Heritage Specialists

The Built Heritage Specialists and Conservation Engineer, in collaboration with the Project Archaeologist, were responsible for the design and management of the built heritage aspects of the project. Their primary objectives are to facilitate the smooth running of heritage-related activities, advise on conservation interventions and ensure completion of all works, including surveys, within agreed budgets and timeframes.

## 2 St Doulagh's Church

### 2.1 East Window to East Gable

The church is approached from the east and the composition of the gable is typical of a medieval church; St Doulagh's has the status of being one of the oldest churches in Ireland in common worship. A main feature of the east gable is the east window, which is constructed in sandstone and as is common for sandstone structures of this type and age, it is subject to significant deterioration.

Whilst the form fabric and function of this window are significant, historical research and documentary evidence in the form of photographs contained within the Conservation Management Plan confirm that it is not original to this location and careful examination of the stonework shows a lower opening originally. The window may have originated from another part of the building and is appropriate for the location and adds character to the gable composition and approach.

Chris Southgate was contacted by AMS to comment on the current condition of the window and make recommendations for its conservation and repair. We carried out site inspections on 29 May and again on 10 September 2024. The inspections were visual only.

A recent report by Lissa Edden of CORA recommended an assessment of the three-paned, double-centred arched, double-lancet leaded window; the leadwork originates from the nineteenth to early twentieth century.

Since the CORA report a program of conservation works to the masonry has been carried out which included applying a lime-based shelter coat to the window.

#### 2.1.1 *Visual Examination of Stonework and Recent Shelter Coating Work*

The window has been recently treated with a lime-based shelter coat which has the addition of fine sand. This overlies decayed friable sandstone and some of the shelter coat has already spalled. The decay process of the sandstone is as a result of efflorescence and salt expansion and in general this is a surface phenomenon where water containing soluble salts enters the porous sandstone during a wetting cycle and then subsequently dries out causing expansion of the salts at the surface of the stone. This in turn breaks down the binder in the stone and dislodges fine grains of the stone from the surface. This effect (sugaring) is slow and does not result in large spalls of stone.

In the case of the central mullion, alveolar (wind based) decay is noticed sometimes referred to as honeycombing. This effect involves a slightly different version of the above resulting in salts concentrating in pockets forming deep depressions within the stone while other areas are protected by surface deposits. This form of decay is associated with wind and rapid wetting and drying and is found principally on the central mullion where the greater exposure to wind is relevant.



Lastly there was one area where cracking of the stone was noticed and in this case the salt crystallization is occurring below the surface possible due to a (in this case unusual) weakness within the stone. The decay in the window is principally sugaring with honeycombing in the central mullion.

The idea of a shelter coat is that the decay process occurring on the surface occurs within a sacrificial layer leaving the underlying stone intact.

### ***2.1.2 The Shelter Coat and Understanding the Substrate***

During our inspection we examined the shelter coat, which is in our opinion based on the lime method. Traditionally lime water treatment and thin coats of feebly hydraulic lime were applied. The idea being that the lime was softer than the substrate and was reversible. This treatment was used extensively in the last quarter of the twentieth century and was found to be effective on limestone. Recent developments have allowed the introduction of nano limes, which contain tiny particles of feebly hydraulic lime suspended in alcohol to penetrate deep into the substrate strengthening the binder.

The application of lime water and many coats of lime wash is a lengthy process and, in this case, adding fine sand to the coating has produced a thicker surface coating. The addition of the sand appears to have had a secondary effect of hardening the lime shelter coat by acting as a pozzolan (an impurity which converts feebly hydraulic lime into a stronger hydraulic lime). The net effect is that the shelter coat is quite hard and in a few cases the sandstone has decayed below, dislodging the shelter coat. For whatever reason, this is the opposite of the intention, and it is important to understand the reasons for failure.

It should be said that in 85% of the exposed window, the shelter coat seems to have adhered to the substrate and only in the case of the central mullion and certain areas of the reveal stonework has failure occurred.

Lime shelter coats are known to be suitable for limestones and calcareous sandstones (sandstones which have a significant calcium carbonate content). In siliceous sandstones, lime is known on occasion to accelerate decay due to chemical Incompatibility.

For this reason, the composition of the stone should be checked using XRF (X-Ray Florescent) spectroscopy to determine the calcium carbonate content during the next phase of work.

Bearing in mind that the majority of the treatment has been successful, the reasons for isolated failure could be simply due to inadequate preparation. However, we noticed two different colours of the substrate sandstone, the mullion being of a darker ochre colour than the cill. This leads to the possibility of two different stones, one responding well to the treatment and one responding poorly.

Taking samples for analysis and destructive testing is not advised. A quick acid dissolution test could also be carried out but is minutely disruptive, so in our opinion sufficient information from non-destructive XRF testing is advised.

### **2.1.3 *Material and Consolidation Options***

#### **2.1.3.1 Option 1: If the Sandstone is Calcareous**

Remove friable material from damaged areas and treat surface with a nano-lime consolidant, 5g per litre followed by 25g per litre. Apply feebly hydraulic colour matched lime wash, five coats.

#### **2.1.3.2 Option 2: If the Sandstone is Siliceous in Certain Areas**

Remove friable material from damaged areas and treat surface with silicic acid ester to chemically restore binder. This should be carried out as a sample treatment on a small trial area and monitored.

We do not recommend removing any of the previous treatment, which appears to be working. It is possible that the darker stone is siliceous quartz with a FEOOH Iron hydroxide binder that could explain the discoloration. It is also possible that not all the stone is of this composition.

#### **2.1.3.3 Option 3: Do Nothing**

In this option we recommend monitoring over a period of time and base future proposals on test results on site. There is a school of thought that treatments may not significantly contribute to the long-term preservation of the sensitive sandstone.

### **2.1.4 *Recommendations***

Works are required to understand the nature of decay on the sandstone east window to the chancel. Depending on test results, further stabilisation of a trial area is recommended either using nano-lime and limewash if the sandstone is calcareous, or alternatively, a silicic acid ester consolidant could be trialled if found to be siliceous. Comparative testing of other stones is recommended.

It is unlikely that the medieval masons responsible for the window deliberately chose sandstones of different colour. It is more likely that the sandstone matched originally but has now decayed in different ways. This theory also explains why the decay mechanism of the central mullion is different from the reveal stonework. It is possible that stones which were originally of similar colour, and texture are from different sources, have decayed differently and require different treatment.

XRF testing should be carried out not only on the east window but on other stones in the building which will confirm the conservation approach. Comparative analysis may inform the window's association with other parts of the church and contribute to the phasing theory. Once testing is in place trials can be designed depending on the chemical composition and classification of the stone.

The existing treatment is working in 85% of the area and should be left *in situ* and monitored. Where the shelter coat has failed an opportunity exists to trial a different consolidant and monitor its performance. Even on internationally significant projects the consolidation and treatment of sandstone is trialled prior to decision on overall treatment.

## 2.2 Medieval Earthen Floors in Tower and Chancel

Earthen floors are rare and extremely delicate to preserve. The continuous use of these floors impacts the surface and results in the loss of original material. This can be repaired adding new material, in this case adding clay to the surface, but in terms of conservation standards the ideal is to avoid the actions which produce the loss of the original material.

### 2.2.1 Recommendations

It is advisable to build a short wooden path, which will allow to access the areas with earthen flooring without causing any consumption/damage to the floors. The wooden path will also allow to direct and limit the visited areas, reducing the impact of the visitors on the fragile historical floors and structures.

The path should extend from the entrance to the interior, along the internal wall, for about 2–3m, to allow a few people to access the rooms and at the same time, will leave a complete view of the areas/rooms to all visitors.

## 2.3 Walls of Tower and Chancel

Damp is the main factor of the degradation of the historic walls. This is caused by several factors that can be summarised in three main points:

1. **Water infiltrations/meteoric moisture:** Water infiltration (from walls and roof) is the most common source of deterioration in historic buildings. Water leads to freezing and expansion of ice within the masonry, corrosion of internal steel, and the expansion of rust product. Cracking, spalling, and scaling of the masonry opens the facade for additional water infiltration, exacerbating the damage cycle.
2. **Condensation:** Condensation is caused by air containing water vapour as a gas which is able to diffuse through all building materials. If a wall is cooled below the dew point, water appears within the wall as 'interstitial condensation'. Generally, in the historic buildings, like this church, walls temperature remains often/constantly below the dew point that cause condensation due to poor thermal insulation. Condensation leads to a continuous deterioration of the entire masonry. Dark stains on the surfaces appear only when condensation takes place within the whole thickness.
3. **Rising capillary damp:** This is mainly due to capillarity phenomena within masonries in the presence of groundwater or waters dispersed in the soil. The rise of water by capillarity is usually combined with the transport of water-soluble salts contained in building materials or soil (chlorides, sulphates, nitrates), which crystallize on the walls' surfaces due to the evaporation of water giving place to efflorescence and detachment of surface layers. Rising damp may also cause structural damage. Capillary rise especially occurs in historic

buildings, where the materials used for their construction usually are very porous (natural stone) and, hence, facilitate the capillary action.

### **2.3.1 Recommendations**

It is therefore recommended to eliminate or reduce the damp on the historic walls reducing its original causes listed above. The first step consists in detecting all cracks and openings within the historic masonry and repointing these specific areas using NHL 3.5 lime mortar with a fine sand. Eliminating water infiltrations is crucial not only to reduce/eliminate the damp and its degradations, but also to prevent structural degradation.

It is recommended to maintain a constant low flow of air through the building allowing damp air to exit and walls to dry out. This may be done through leaving the windows and doors open during dry days, and as long as possible. Air flow is probably the cheapest and easiest way to manage damp. It is the most sustainable method when approaching an historic building in order to avoid impacting the historic walls using modern products, materials and/or devices.

It is also recommended the use of UV lights for lightning the church in order to help to dry out the structure. UV light can kill mould and mildew spores, preventing them from spreading and improving overall indoor air quality. Another advantage of UV light in HVAC is that it can increase system efficiency and longevity by keeping coils and other components clean.

Rising damp has been one of the central problems in the restoration/rehabilitation of the built heritage. It is difficult to completely solve especially in the historic building due to the use of different natural materials. The use of Charge Neutralization Technology (CNT) is proposed for eliminating and preventing rising damp in masonry. The scientific principle used by this type of technology is based on the application of physical phenomena referred to by insiders as electro-capillarity and electro-wetting. The technology proposed consists in an electrical device applied to the walls which generates an electromagnetic field inside the masonry that interacts with water molecules and prevents them from rising. Moreover, the nanotechnology protects the walls from water degradation due to weathering and preserves their breathability.

Application of this technology consists of the installation of a CNT dehumidification system provided with sensors with a spherical range of 6–15m. The sensors monitor the rising damp conditions of the wall of the entire building and activate an electromagnetic process to decrease the amount of water.

The CNT device is of small dimensions (0.24m x 0.2m x 0.08m) and very low electrical consumption (c.4w). It is completely harmless and it allows to monitor the time employed by the structure to dry (thanks to the use of specific sensors  $U_m$  and  $U_r$ ).



The Charge Neutralization Technology (CNT) has been used since 2009 in several cases. In Italy, one of the most important examples of application of CNT tool was done in Palazzo Te in Mantua that was built between 1524 and 1534 by Architect Giulio Romano.

## **2.4 Repairs to Victorian Floor in Nave**

Some of the Victorian floor tiles in nineteenth-century nave are damaged from continuous use. It is therefore recommended to proceed with a safe repair of these tiles to preserve the floor's original aspect and stop the degradation before it become irreversible. The conservation process will involve the following operations:

1. Cleaning and removal of any microbiological growth.
2. Rebedding and regrouting.
3. Protection.

These interventions are described below.

### **2.4.1 Cleaning**

Cleaning historic tiles is the responsibility of a conservator specialising in their treatment. It is recommended not to use any chemical product for cleaning the tiles and wire wool brushes or hard abrasives should not be used. It is advised to use soft brushes and delicately wet them with water to eliminate dirt and/or other stains.

To control microbiological growth the tiles should be regularly cleaned. Improved ventilation and a reduction in moisture will also control the growth of microbes. Keep in mind that fluctuating temperature and humidity may cause damage if salts are also present.

### **2.4.2 Rebedding and Regrouting**

Loose and fragile tiles should be rebedded and regrouted. It is important to use compatible mortars of appropriate strength for rebedding and regrouting historic tiles. Therefore, it will be necessary to analyse the mortar and choose appropriately.

### **2.4.3 Protection**

The historic floor should remain uncovered and exposed to ventilation to avoid the formation of damp and/or mould. Thus, carpets and/or druggets are inadvisable on damp floors, as they could promote mould growth. Coatings are not appropriate for pre-industrial tiles, except in special circumstances.

It is recommended, to keep the area protected from footfall by redirecting footfall to other less venerable parts of the church. Mats should be laid at the entrance of the church to remove dirt and grit from shoes.

### **3 The Baptistry**

The purpose of the survey was to evaluate the condition of the Baptistry structure and its influence on the deterioration of plaster and wall painting finishes.

The cruciform structure of the baptistry follows the Italian cross shaped form with a domed hipped roof. The arched section is constructed in limestone as shown in the photographs. The whole structure is set around a sunken well bounded by retaining walls of recent reconstruction. Limestone steps and flags lead to the main door on the north elevation, while the surrounding finish is cobbled.

Within the four symmetrical chambers are cross-shaped openings which are unglazed. Internally, the arched roof is lime plastered and originally was covered in a wall painting scheme dating from the seventeenth century. The purpose of our survey was to evaluate the condition of the baptistry structure and its influence on the deterioration of plaster and wall painting finishes.

The structure itself is medieval and of high significance. The baptistry being constructed separately from the church implies that the unbaptized were not to be allowed into the sacred space of the church. Later the baptistry is likely to have been a place of pilgrimage and healing.

St Doulagh's Well and the full immersion chamber to the south are now dry. This is unfortunate and the absence of water from a natural source detracts from the significance of the baptistry and we would encourage investigation into reestablishing the natural water spring in some way.

#### **3.1 Condition of Structure**

When the Baptistry was restored in 1989/90 the structure was repointed with cement pointing, which has been liable to crack causing water ingress and the establishment of vegetation. It is recommended to repoint the building in its entirety in NHL 3.5 lime mortar with a fine sand. A sample panel of pointing using Secil lime, and an appropriate local sand should be provided to test out the visual appearance and to compare with the hot lime bedding mortars.

Once completed we would recommend a hydrophobic coating to the roof and string course area consisting of three coats of Triethoxy silane-based water repellent such as Remmers SNL which should be reapplied at ten yearly intervals. The vertical surfaces of masonry are allowed to breathe and should not be treated and only the wetting surface should receive hydrophobic treatment.

During the pointing process involving raking out to a depth of 50mm to 75mm it may be found that bedding mortar is missing. In these cases, low pressure grouting could be carried out using Coulinex or similar NHL3.5 grout.

### **3.1.1 Historic Wall Paintings**

The historic wall paintings, if extant, would be of technical and artistic significance. During our inspection we found that the wall paintings had so deteriorated that it is not possible to restore or interpret them from an artistic point of view.

The decay to plaster and wall paintings has occurred due to dampness and moisture continuously entering through the stone roof. Whilst conservation works are recommended to replace the cement pointing with lime pointing which will assist the building to dry out, the damage to internal finishes is irreversible and we recommend these are left as they are.

AMS have carried out rectified photography and infra-red photography as part of the CMP process and for the purpose of recording. Further XRF testing could give a clue as to the technical significance of the use of pigments.

Further to the above consideration could also be given to laser scanning during conservation works for conservation record purposes.

## **3.2 Recommendations**

### **3.2.1 Vegetation Removal**

Prior to masonry works being carried out, vegetation should be carefully treated and removed from the exterior of the Baptistry using a glyphosate-based herbicide. Attention should be given to ensure that chemicals do not stray onto the surrounding grasslands. In the case of large roots within the wall structure, consideration should be given to drilling the root and inserting a 15mm copper pipe for later treatment. The copper pipe also acts as an herbicide in the absence of introducing chemicals and offers a marker for future treatment allowing the surrounding masonry to be pointed.

In some instances, treatment will have to be carried out annually, over three to five years. In the case of this monument, we envisage routine annual maintenance spraying, once the recommended capital works are complete.

### **3.2.2 Repointing and Repair**

Following the removal of vegetation from the exterior and retaining walls the following regimen should be undertaken:

- The broken string course/drip course is allowing water ingress to the interior of the Baptistry. The stones should be reset and rebed with comparable mortars to the medieval structure.
- In advance, samples should be obtained from the mortars to allow analysis for the preparation of new mortars. The exterior and interior of the structure should be XRF tested.

- A program of repointing in lime to the exterior of the Baptistry after vegetation treatment together with a hydrophobic coating to the roof is recommended.
- Repointing should be carried out using an NHL 3.5 hydraulic lime. For larger voids an Oolitic stone dust could be added; dust can be sieved to the required level.
- With low quality rubblework, the amount of grout-fill and pressure of application is kept low as too much wet-fill administered with an excess head of pressure can easily push the masonry apart.
- Once pointing and resetting of stones is complete, carefully grout the affected area from the ground up. This can be carried out by a skilled operative with a hand pump or using gravity with 300mm to 600mm head through a 22mm diameter pipe, depending on the size of voids.
- Once all the holes are drilled, they can be tested to see which ones will take grout.
- Mixing should ideally be done using a mechanical, slow turning plasterers' whisk. The consistency required will vary, in simple terms, thicker than good quality emulsion paint and thinner than porridge.
- Continually check where the mortar/lime is going. As the nozzle is removed from each hole it can be temporarily filled with clay. When grouting walling it is preferable to work horizontally along the structure from the bottom up.
- Records should be kept during the repointing process, which from previous experience could involve up to 20 litres per square metre.
- If only small amounts of mortar can be introduced, then repointing is not necessary.
- Repointing should be carried out with a hydraulic lime mortar NHL3.5 Secil lime, or similar, approved in proportion 1:2.5 with sand and grit.
- To differentiate between the new work and the rest of the medieval stonework, it is suggested that a sandstone aggregate (510mm) is used in the mix to provide a subtle variation in texture to the medieval work.

### 3.2.3 Interior of Baptistry

No works are recommended for the internal plaster due to the presence of post-medieval graffiti, as well as the potential for elements of the frescoes to remain *in situ*. However, the following steps are recommended:

- The interior of the Baptistry should be monitored following the repair of the string course to ensure it is drying-out.
- The interior should be laser scanned for recording and the internal finishes should be monitored during drying out.
- The location of potential wall painting fragments should receive XRF testing to determine any significant pigment materials.

### 3.2.4 Retaining Wall, Steps and Paving

The steps and paving should be evaluated, repaired, reset and bedded in lime mortar. The support layer must be compatible with the paving or surface layer, i.e. a flexible surface layer requires a flexible



support structure. Ideally, granite or limestone flags should be bedded in the traditional manner on a support layer of thoroughly compacted sand.

There are several reasons to recommend this method:

- It creates a pavement of greater flexural strength than those of rigid cement-bound construction.
- It is environmentally more sustainable, as it provides a permeable pavement which contributes to the minimisation of storm-water run-off.
- It reduces damage by frost action.
- The absence of cementitious materials prolongs the life of the paving slabs and reduces damage to the edges of slabs brought about by hard pointing materials.
- Staining of natural stone with cement is avoided.
- Slabs can be more readily taken up in the future, if necessary, limiting damage to historic flagstones. Where frost action is likely to occur, it should not be possible for penetrating moisture to be trapped within the frost layer. All parts of the construction should be permeable and adequate positive drainage provided if needed. Frost protection is a further reason to favour flexible unbound construction in climates with cold winters.

## **4 The Graveyard**

### **4.1 Memorials**

The historic graveyard is rich in memorials (graves slabs, headstones and crosses) that are now in a poor state of conservation. Several memorials are broken in two or more pieces and have fallen and/or subsided from their original position.

In order to reinstate the memorials and preserve the graveyard and its historic and archaeological significance it is advised to start a process of conservation of all stone material surviving in the graveyard. The process will involve the cleaning of all existing pieces, the repair of broken sculpture, and the final protection of them.

The repair will consist in putting the broken pieces of sculptures together using metal rods to ensure proper structural integrity. All cracks, chips and dings need to be filled, polished and treated.

### **4.2 Recommendations**

In advance of the repair and reinstatement of the historic memorials, headstones, grave slabs and crosses, it is recommended that an accurate survey of the structures, their current status and location is carried out through photogrammetry and laser scanner. This should be done to preserve by record their preservation status before any repair and conservation intervention. After the survey a detailed plan of the graveyard in its authentic status should be created and displayed on a panel at the entrance to the graveyard and/or online that describes and illustrates the history of the graveyard main features.

## 5 Conclusion and Recommendations

The implementation of the policies put forward in this Plan should take place in compliance with legal requirements under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014, the Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2018, Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and other applicable legislation.

### 5.1 Recommendations

In general, St Doulagh's is in reasonable condition for a building of this type and age. However, it is proposed that three main phases of work should be undertaken in order of priority, which are outlined in Table 1 (below).

**Table 1: Proposed conservation actions.**

Phase	Vulnerability	Action
<b>Phase 1: The Church</b>	The east window to the chancel is in danger of ongoing decay.	Careful testing and trials of different consolidation solutions for sandstone elements.
<b>Phase 1: The Church</b>	The medieval clay floors are unprotected and in danger of deterioration.	Devise a strategy for the protection and maintenance of the floors.
<b>Phase 1: The Graveyard</b>	The memorials in the graveyard are damaged and in need of repair.	Carry out an accurate survey of the memorials using photogrammetry and laser scanner.
<b>Phase 1: The Baptistry</b>	There is no water in either holy well and there is a large quantity of rubbish in St Catherine's Well.	Clean out St Catherine's Well and St Doulagh's Well; reintroduce water. Replace locks on both wells to deter anti-social behavior.
<b>Phase 1: The Baptistry</b>	The wall paintings in Baptistry have seriously deteriorated and may no longer be extant.	Laser recording of Baptistry structure. Carry out scientific analysis of the composition of pigments through XRF analysis.
<b>Phase 1: The Baptistry</b>	The exterior string course is broken and allowing water to pool.	Remove vegetation from exterior of Baptistry. Repair, reset and repoint string course. Repoint external roof of Baptistry. Repair and reset broken paving slabs.
<b>Phase 2: The Church</b>	Victorian tiles in the nave are broken.	Repair and reset broken tiles.
<b>Phase 2: The Graveyard</b>	Repair of broken memorials in graveyard.	Repair and reinstate memorials, headstones and grave slabs.
<b>Phase 3</b>	Understanding and interpretation of the buildings onsite is required to inform future management strategies.	Ongoing research and monitoring.

### 5.2 Maintenance Recommendations

Once Phase 1 to 3 are completed, an annual inspection of the structure is recommended with a treatment regime for vegetation growth. Initially this may be required in April and September, reducing to annual inspection and treatment in September. Vegetation should be carefully treated with a brushwood killer, but great care is needed to prevent overspill and damage to adjacent vegetation.

## Plates



Plate 1: General arrangement of church, facing west.





Plate 2: Detail of repointing works to chancel and tower, which were undertaken in 2018.



Plate 3: Detail of repointing works to tower, facing upwards to east.



Plate 4: Detail of church and tower, east.



Plate 5: The conservation works were carried out to a high standard.





Plate 6: In general, the nineteenth-century structure did not require conservation.

### East Window to Chancel



Plate 7: During the 2018 conservation works a shelter coat was applied to the east window to the chancel.



Plate 8: The details on the cill show that the shelter coat consisted of lime with a sand filler to provide thickness and stability to the shelter coat.



Plate 9: Careful examination shows the east window was not originally in this position and the location is not original.





Plate 10: The central mullion shows alveolar, or honeycomb decay. The area is subject to extreme wetting and drying and salt crystallisation has caused spalling of the shelter coat.



Plate 11: The southeast mullion also shows some signs of failure.



Plate 12: This image demonstrates how the parent and shelter coat are harder than the parent sandstone.





Plate 13: Secondary detail of harder parent and shelter coat.



Plate 14: Decay on the sandstone cill shows parent material is likely to spall if not treated.



Plate 15: In one area only, cracking has occurred and material is likely to spall if not treated.



Plate 16: The pointing and deterioration of shelter coat on the northeast lancet; the adjacent lime pointing is in good condition.



Plate 17: The sandstone appears more friable than the surrounding pointing.



Plate 18: Minor faults in the putty should be addressed during repair.



## The Baptistry



Plate 19: Approach northwards towards the Baptistry, a medieval structure of cruciform form. In the Italian tradition, the baptistry is external as the unbaptised are not permitted in the sacred space of the church.



Plate 20: South elevation of Baptistry from the approach.



Plate 21: North elevation of Baptistry.



Plate 22: String course of Baptistry, which is in need of repair.





Plate 23: View of Baptistry from northwest.



Plate 24: West elevation of Baptistry.



Plate 25: St Catherine's Well, facing southwest.



Plate 26: St Detail of immersion pit in Baptistry, facing north-northwest.



Plate 27: Roof structure of St Catherine's Well.





Plate 28: Steps leading down to entrance of St Catherine's Well.



Plate 29: Internal view of St Catherine's Well, facing west.



Plate 30: Internal view of St Catherine's Well, facing southwest.



Plate 31: Decay to vault ceiling of St Catherine's Well, facing south.





Plate 32: Vegetation growing from cracks in pointing of the Baptistry, facing northwest.



Plate 33: The pointing on the wall of the Baptistry is in reasonable condition, facing northwest.



Plate 34: Detail of pointing on wall of Baptistry, facing east.



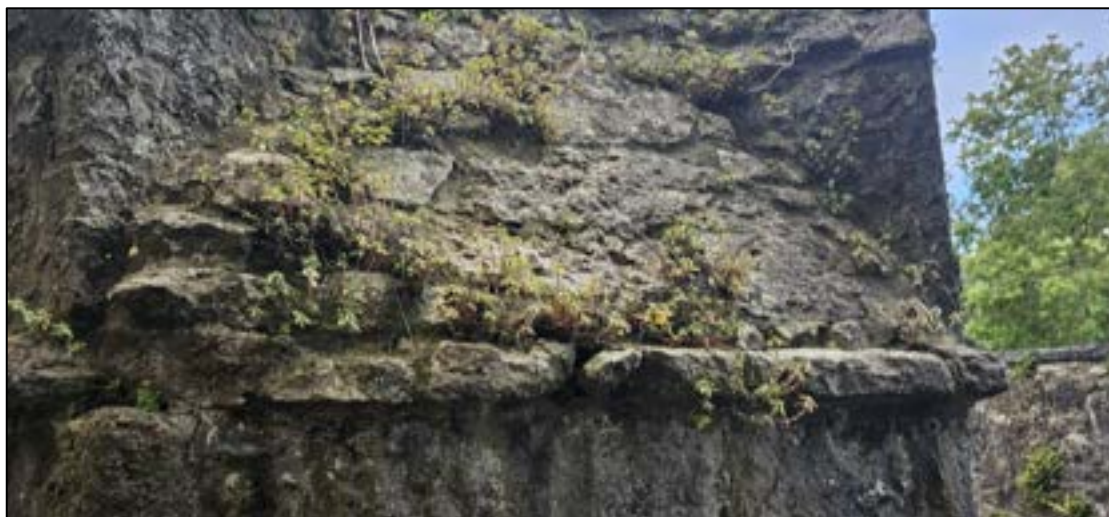


Plate 35: Decay to string course of Baptistry, which is allowing water ingress.



Plate 36: Decay to string course of Baptistry, facing southeast.

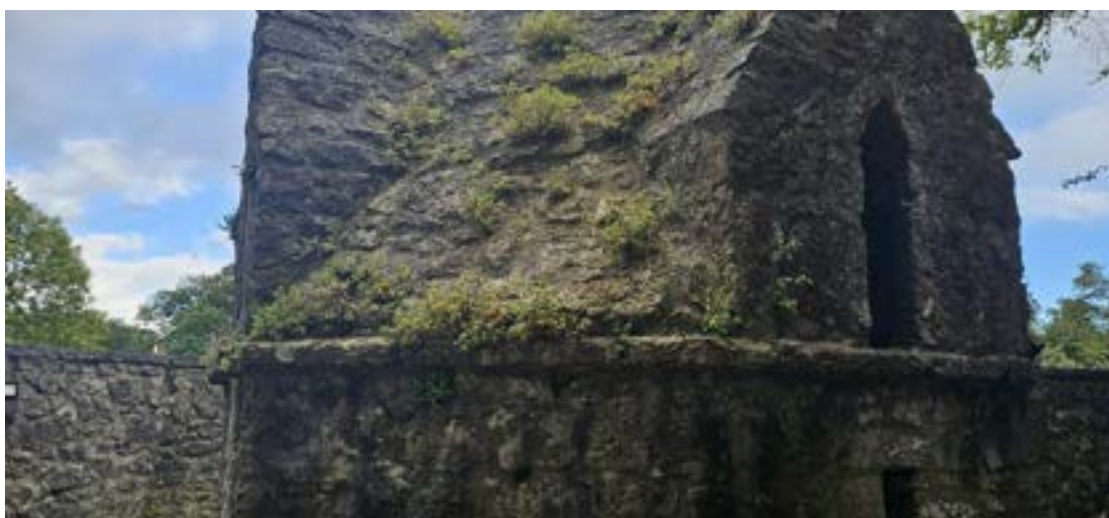


Plate 37: Decay to string course of Baptistry, facing east.



**Plate 38:** Condition of walls and ceiling in interior of Baptistry, facing southwest.



Plate 39: Condition of walls and ceiling in interior of Baptistry, facing west.





Plate 40: Interior walls of Baptistry, facing north.



Plate 41: Interior upper walls of Baptistry, facing north.



Plate 42: Interior window in Baptistry, facing north.





Plate 43: Ceiling in Baptistry.



Plate 44: Ceiling in Baptistry, facing north.



Plate 45: Detail of ceiling in Baptistry from entrance.



Plate 46: Damage to paving at entrance to Baptistry interior, facing west.



Plate 47: The steps to the Baptistry are in good condition.



Plate 48: Detail of render on Baptistry.





Plate 49: Detail of render on Baptistry.



Plate 50: The external retaining walls of the Baptistry are in reasonable condition.



Plate 51: Vegetation on retaining walls of the Baptistry.



**FLYNN  
FURNEY**

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

# Ecology Survey and Biodiversity Plan

**St, Doulagh's Chruch  
Kinsealy, Dublin**



## Document Details

**Client:** Archaeological Management Solutions (AMS)

**Project Title:** Ecology Survey and Biodiversity Plan

**Document Title:** Ecology Survey and Biodiversity Plan: St, Doulagh's Church  
Kinsealy, Dublin

**Prepared by:** Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants Ltd

Rev	Status	Date	Author(s)	Approved by
01	Draft	17/09/2024	ID	BF
02	Final	12/08/2024	ID	BF

## 1 Introduction

Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants have been appointed to provide an Ecology survey and biodiversity management plan for St. Doulagh's Church in Kinsealy, Dublin. The plan is being developed for St Doulagh's Church and associated monuments in north County Dublin as part of a Conservation Management Plan funded by the Community Monuments Fund (CMF). The project includes a baseline ecology survey of the site and a bat roosting assessment, focusing on protecting and enhancing the biodiversity of St Doulagh's Church, graveyard and archaeological features along with the site fields and woods, which Fingal County Council manages.

*Figure 1: St. Doulaaghs Church*



### 1.1. Statement of Authority

Field assessment surveys were undertaken by Ian Douglas (B.Sc., MSc) of Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants in September 2024. This report has been reviewed by Ian Douglas (B.Sc., M.Sc.).

Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants have 20-plus years of experience in ecological surveying and management. We have detailed knowledge of the principles and implementation of both Irish and European environmental legislation. We have worked closely with statutory bodies on habitat management and protection projects, including the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Waterways Ireland. Other expertise includes Ecological Impact Assessment, Habitat and Floral Surveys, Bird Surveying, Bat Surveying, and Fish and Waterways Surveys.

Surveys and reports were completed by Ian Douglas (MSc, BSc, H Cert. Ag), an Ecologist and Environmental Consultant with over 10 years of experience specialising in Appropriate Assessment, Ecological Impact Assessment, Habitats Surveying, Soil Science and GIS Mapping. Ian has worked on projects including large road developments, power infrastructure projects, planning and design of nature trails, constructed wetland creation and on-farm habitat development.

## 2 Description of Site and Habitats

St. Doulagh's Church site in Kinsealy, Co. Dublin, is home to a remarkable complex of historical and religious structures. It's believed to be the oldest stone-roofed church still in use in Ireland, dating back to the 7th century. The site contains the church, a graveyard, and other stone buildings and stone walls. The north, south, and west of the site are wrapped in a thick band of trees composed mainly of Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Lime Tree (*Tilia Cordata*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). Hazel (*Ulmus spp*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) were noted but much less abundant. Dog-rose (*Rosa canina*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus agg*) were also abundant along the woodland boundary.

*Figure 2: Quality mixed woodland around the site boundary*





The site also contains an area of grassland managed as a meadow covering 0.6ha and found to the north of the Church. Grasslands on site were generally diverse and supported a variety of flowering plants and grasses, including Annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*), Sweet vernal grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Meadow Fox-tail (*Alopecurus pratensis*). Herbs included Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Docks (*Rumex spp.*) and Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus*), Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*). Prominent clusters of Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*) were also present throughout the grassland.

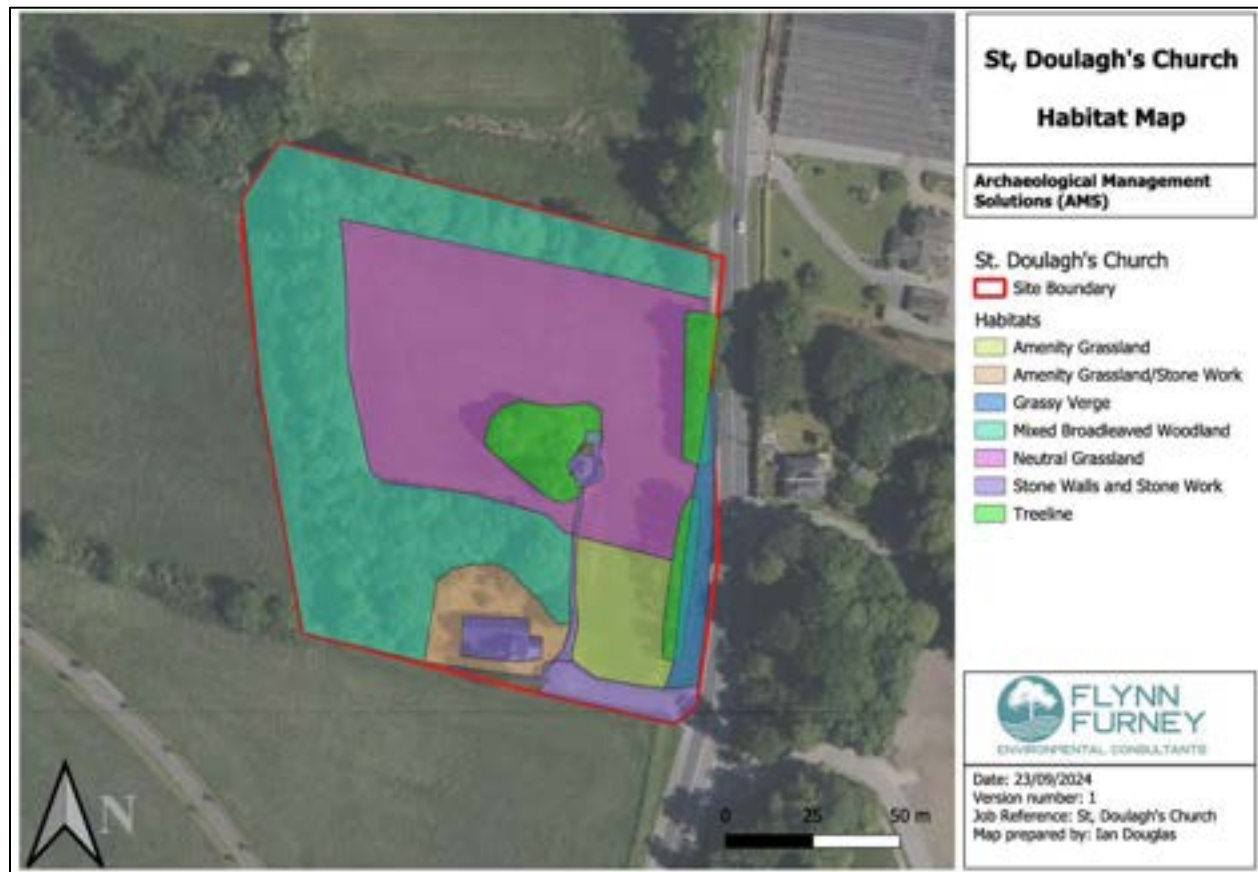
Figure 3: Large cluster of Selfheal recorded in the grassland



Lesser habitat areas on-site include a range of stone walls and stone work supporting an array of small plants, lichens, and mosses and an area of amenity grassland kept closely mown for amenity uses.



Figure 4: Habitat map of the site



## 2.1 Bat Surveys

A bat survey was conducted on the night of September 19th, 2024. Conditions were ideal for surveying, with temperatures around 16°C and no wind. Emergence surveys focused on the small stone sub-terrain and the larger trees around the grounds. Transect routes followed the walking track around the site and through the small woodland paths behind the churchyard. No emergence activity was noted. It is known that bats roost in the church; however, sensor lights kept coming on when I tried to look at the walls and roof of the church, which might have disrupted bats. Bat activity was curiously low on the night of the survey, with only three records of common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) recorded throughout the survey period. All bats were recorded foraging along the large treelines north of the site.

Given the time of year, many of the resident bats on the site may have left the Church, which is likely to be a maternity roost, and moved towards wintering roosts or temporary night roosts. Several actions are detailed below to improve the site's usefulness and functionality for bats.

## 2.2 Other Fauna

Tracks and trails were abundant throughout the site's woodland, leading into the wood and surrounding lands. While it was not possible to ascertain what species were making the tracks, it is likely a mixture of Dogs, Foxes, and possibly Badgers. No refugia for any of these species were found; however, surveillance for mammals during peak plant growth periods is suboptimal.

## 2.3 Birds

Serval birds were noted on the site, during surveying. The site's wide variety of tree species, sizes and ages provides excellent nesting habitat for several bird species. Species recorded included woodpigeon, pied wagtail, robin and wren. At sunset, a Long-eared Owl was noted hunting over the site's meadow area and perching in the adjacent Lime trees. These trees provide a highly suitable nesting habitat for this species.

*Figure 5: Long-eared owl in flight. This species was recorded on the site*



### 3 Opportunities for Biodiversity Enhancement

At the outset, it should be noted that the site is already performing close to its maximum for biodiversity. The historical and current management of the site are highly favourable for biodiversity. Grassland management is good. The woodlands around the site have numerous quality semi-natural characteristics, and the buildings have been noted as supporting bats. The actions noted below aim to enhance the existing opportunities for nature while supporting the engagement with the site from the local community.

#### 3.1.1 Lighting and Bat Habitat

Large permanent uplights have been placed around St Doulagh's Well on the site. While it is understood that these lights are in place to counteract antisocial behaviour, they are likely detrimental to local bat populations, particularly during the emergence and re-entering of roost sites.

*Figure 6: Large powerful lights on St Doulagh's Well.*



If possible, the lighting on this structure should be changed to sensor lighting like that surrounding the church. All lighting around the church and grounds should be specified to meet the guidelines in relation to bats, as detailed below:

- LED luminaires should be used due to the fact that they are highly directional, have lower intensity, have good colour rendition and have dimming capability.
- A warm white spectrum (<2700 Kelvins should be used to reduce the blue light component of the LED spectrum).
- Luminaires will feature peak wavelengths higher than 550nm to avoid the component of light most disturbing to bats.

The quality of the bat foraging habitat on this small site was good. The site could be improved for bats with the addition of artificial roosting features in several of the more giant trees around the site. The following bat boxes are suggested:

- 2x Flat Bat Colony Box 3FF should also should be fixed to one of the large trees along the site's northern boundary, with a second box fitted to one of the mature trees around the churchyard
- Installation of No.4 Schwegler Universal Bat Boxes (1FFH) clustered along the edge of the site

### 3.1.2 Meditation Area and Grassland Enhancement

It is understood that there is interest in utilising the grassland for meditation and prayer. A suggestion that may be in keeping with the site's history and heritage would be to create concentric circles within the grassland and create seating around them, surrounded by one of each native tree species planted in a circle with its corresponding Ogham symbol represented under each tree. A design for this is provided below that aligns with the key solstice and equinox dates in the calendar. As shown below.



Figure 7: Ogham grove design



### 3.1.3 Further surveys

Given the surprising record of long-eared owls, it is suggested that owl surveys be conducted during the breeding season next summer. Either professionals or the public can carry this out. Walk around the site around sunset during July and August and listen for the distinctive screeching of the young owls, who are usually easily seen hopping from branch to branch around the trees surrounding the nest site. The National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) is keenly interested in the number of Long-eared Owls, which have increased in recent years. Any findings should be added to the NBDC database.

## 3.2 Conclusion

The ecological survey and biodiversity management plan for St. Doulagh's Church, conducted by Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants, highlight the site's significant natural and cultural heritage.

The site already demonstrates a high level of biodiversity, with well-managed grasslands, woodlands, and historic structures that support various species, including bats and birds like the Long-eared Owl. Recommendations such as modifications to lighting to support bat activity, the installation of bat boxes, and the enhancement of grassland for community use present opportunities for biodiversity improvement and community engagement with nature. Further surveys, particularly for the Long-eared Owl, could provide a deeper understanding and promote community involvement in conservation efforts.

Overall, the management plan aims to balance the preservation of St. Doulagh's historical significance with protecting and enhancing its natural habitats, ensuring that the site remains a rich ecological and cultural asset for future generations.





## ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

### Assessment of Trees ST DOULAGH'S CHURCH Malahide Road Co Dublin



September 2024

Prepared for:

**Dr Kim Rice**  
**Archaeological Management Solutions (AMS)**

Prepared by:

Roy Goodwin

BSc (Hons) Arb, N Dip Arb, MArborA, MCIHort.

*Consultant Arboriculturist*

Goodwin-Arborist

Tullyallen, Co Louth.

Tel: 041 987 3584

Report no: ASR 1973

## CONTENTS

1. Introduction	1
2. Summary Findings	2
3. Management Recommendations	13
<i>Scope &amp; Limitations</i>	15
Appendix 1: Tree Schedule	16

---

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Terms of Reference

Goodwin-Arborist was instructed by Dr Kim Rice (AMS), to assess trees within the grounds of St Doulagh's Church, and to report on their condition and advise on their management as part of the site's Conservation Management Plan.

### 1.2 Site Investigation, Methodology & Scope

The trees in question were subject to a visual assessment from the ground on 20 August 2024. The assessment survey and this report are subject to the limitations and scope as given at the rear of the report.



Figure 1: Satellite view of site, with CMP study area outlined red. The outline of the graveyard around the church itself (overlaid from the OSI maps) is in orange.



## 2. SUMMARY FINDINGS

- 2.1 The schedule describing those trees recorded in the survey is presented in Appendix 1 at the rear of this report, together with annotated plans to indicate their locations. The following is a selective, photographic summary of the trees inspected.



Figures 2 & 3: Copies of the Tree Location Plans from Appendix 1, showing the churchyard and surrounding tree group features, and (right) the individual trees recorded in the survey beside St Doulagh's church and well.

- 2.2 Figures 2 & 3, above, show the churchyard in context of the overall site and in close-up, based on satellite Google Map images, annotated with the tag number and approximate location of principal trees. The outline of the churchyard is taken from the current and historic OSI maps. On site, the western and northern edges of the churchyard are unclear due to overgrown vegetation.
- 2.3 Arboriculturally, the most notable trees in the churchyard are several yews – particularly tree no. 9814. The largest trees are sycamores 9818 and 9827. The age and historical importance of these trees is discussed further below. Tree lines L1 – L4 enclose open grass areas, bounded to the east by Malahide Road and to the west by agricultural fields.



Figure 4: St Doulagh's Church, with yew tree 9814 on its southern (lefthand) side, and sycamore 9827 and yew 9829 to the north.



Figure 5: Yew no. 9814 – a notable heritage tree.



Figure 6: Southern side of the church, with yew tree 9814, behind dead cherry 9815.



Figure 7: Yew tree 9816 and adjacent privet bush 9817; the former of some significant value, the latter could be removed.



Figure 8: Opposite view of yew 9816 and privet 9817; note wall ruins beside yew 9816.





Figure 9: Sycamore 9818 beside headstones, north-western corner of graveyard.

- 2.4 West and north of the church and graveyard is an area of young woodland: W1. Likely self-seeded, this is predominantly composed of slender semi-mature ash and grey alder. Several trees are dead or dying from infection – the ash from *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (ash dieback disease).



Figures 10 & 11: Pockets of disease-related tree mortality within dense young woodland W1.

- 2.5 The northern graveyard lawn has a rather poorer appearance, edged with several dying ash and with three small mature shrubs growing on top of graves.





Figure 12: Northern boundary of graveyard, with dying ash 9821 (left), and larger partly collapsed ash 9823.



Figure 13: Northern graveyard (looking east), with shrubs 9824-26 on graves, and mature sycamore 9827 beyond.



Figure 14: View from north of churchyard, with sycamore 9827 and (beyond it on the left) yew 9829.

- 2.6 Tree lines L1 - L4 run along the eastern boundary with Malahide Roadside and adjacent (agricultural) fields to the west. Subject to confirmation of ownership, roadside tree lines L1 & L2 will require removal of dying trees, followed by basal ivy removal and regular assessment for road safety. L3 is a line of notably fine mature (c. 19<sup>th</sup> century) lime trees.



Figure 14: Ash with dieback in roadside line L1.





Figure 15: Another view of tree line L1.



Figure 16: Roadside line L2, and (left) internal tree line L3.



Figure 17: L3: Impressive line of (c. 14) mature limes, with one roadside oak (far right).

- 2.7 At the baptistry and well/s, the one notable old tree here is a small hawthorn (tree no. 9830), rooted in the northern retaining wall of the sunken enclosure around the baptistry of St Doulagh's well. Just north and below it is the sunken chamber enclosing St Catherine's well. To the west of the baptistry well are a multi-stemmed birch and an alder (tree nos. 9831 & 9832), and further west, beside these, a small group of maples.



Figure 18: Trees beside St Doulagh's well and baptistry.



Figure 19: Maples and (right) birch 9831, western side of the baptistry well.



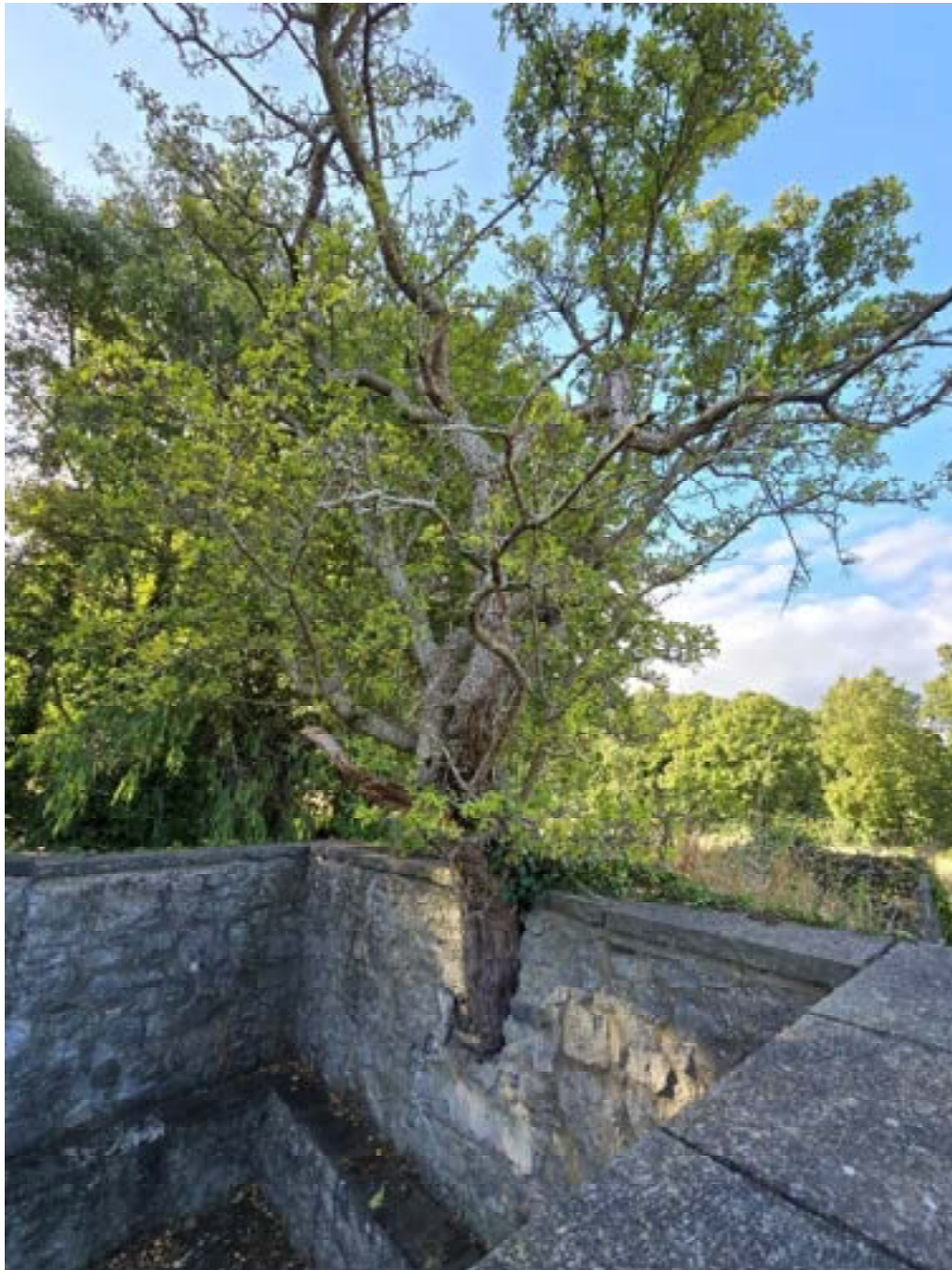


Figure 20: Hawthorn 9830.

### **Trees of Historic Importance**

- 2.8 The oldest trees on site are yew tree 9814 (and 9829), hawthorn 9830, and tree line L3 (and the neighbouring roadside and avenue trees of 'Bohomer', north of the site). L3 (the lime avenue) is clearly shown on the 19<sup>th</sup> century OSI maps. Yew 9814 is likely to have been present at that time, although as an individual lone tree it is not clearly marked.



Figure 21: OSI 25" map.



Figure 22: Hawthorn branching over St Doulagh's well enclosure.

- 2.9 The oldest tree on site would appear to be yew 9814. Because of its rather unique physiology and potentially exceptional longevity, yew “is the most difficult of trees to age with any degree of confidence” (White, 1998). Its stem diameter of 108 cm (115 cm at 1.5 m) represents a girth (circumference) of 339 cm. A churchyard yew with a girth of 3.4 m would certainly suggest an age of c. 300 years.
- 2.10 Based on average ring widths from modern research (Hindson et al, 2019), a girth of 308 cm would indicate an age of c. 320. Depending on environment, yews often begin hollowing at c. 400 years. Yew tree 9814 is not hollow, and it is not fully ancient or veteran (yet). It is not credible that its’ planting would date back to the 12th or 15th centuries (reportedly the oldest parts of the church), nor as late at 1864 when the modern church was built. On the above estimates, although planted no earlier than the 18th century, it is still of significant age, and is classified as a ‘notable’ Heritage Tree.



Figure 23: Yew 9814



Figure 24: 'St Doulagh's yew'.

### 3. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 3.1 Summary of Recommendations

- 3.1.1 Currently advised priority works are detailed in the Tree Schedule (Appendix 1). Any archaeological excavation or engineering works to the church should be informed a tree protection plan, with particular focus on the conservation of the identified heritage trees on site, namely: yew tree 9814, together with yews 9816, 9828 & 29, and hawthorn 9830.
- 3.1.2 The several small shrubs in the northern graveyard lawn are unexceptional arboriculturally and botanically and are relatively recent; their conservation is optional (e.g. remove them if headstones need to be cleared, etc.).
- 3.1.3 Trees lines L1 – L4 will and should be retained, other than removal of dead/dying ash as recommended for L1. The roadside lines L1 and L2 (subject to confirmation of ownership) should be re-assessed following basal ivy removal and managed to comply with section 70 of the Roads Act 1993. Line L3 is a feature of exceptional value; management intervention in the form of individual assessment and periodic monitoring will be needed if that area becomes regularly occupied.



- 3.1.4 Woodland W1 appears to contain nothing of individual note. If this area becomes occupied, management in the form of periodic checks and removal dead/dying trees may suffice. If clearance of trees is/were required for archaeological reasons, a more detailed management plan may be warranted.

### **3.2 Restrictions on Tree work**

- 3.2.1 Works may be undertaken as soon as practicable. They will be exempt under any restrictions under the Forestry Act 2014 if within an urban area, within 30m of buildings (which likely predate them) and/or under ministerial exemption.
- 3.2.2 Works to trees should be preceded by a competent assessment as to the presence of any protected wildlife species such as bats or nesting birds. This may be undertaken by the chosen contractor, but appropriate precautions should be taken to avoid any disturbance to resident wildlife during the works.

### **3.3 Specification and Standard of Tree Works**

Works as specified in the schedule (Appendix 1) are to be performed by suitably trained and insured operatives of an approved tree work contractor and undertaken in accordance with BS 3998 (BSI, 2010) and European Pruning Standard (EAS, 2021). The chosen contractor should produce a site-specific risk assessment and submit for approval a brief method statement for the works, including measures for road traffic control.

### **3.4 Monitoring and Re-assessment**

The condition of the trees should be regularly monitored – including after any extreme storm events. It is advised that the trees be subject to a professional re-assessment within two-three years, unless specified or otherwise deemed prudent on foot of monitoring, change of site conditions, or additional information.

Respectfully submitted:

Roy Goodwin  
BSc (Hons) Arb, N Dip Arb, MArborA, MCIHort.  
*Consultant Arboriculturist*

## Limitations and Scope of this Survey Report

This report covers only those trees recorded as individually inspected and reflects the condition of those trees at the time of inspection. Unless otherwise specified, inspection was limited to a 'level 2' (ISA, 2017) visual examination of the subject trees from the ground only and without diagnostic drilling, coring, tomographic or motion sensor testing, root excavation examination, or the systematic removal of vines or other obstructing material. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the subject trees may not arise in the future. The currency of this survey report and its recommendations is approximately one year.

Goodwin-arborist accepts no responsibility for the performance of retained trees whose management is executed not as specified and recommended in this report or in accordance with current good practice. The condition of all retained trees mentioned in this report should be regularly monitored, and is advised to be subject to expert re-assessment every two or three years or as otherwise specified, and/or when prudent in the event of any significant change of site conditions. This report was produced for the named client only. Public disclosure, copying, or submission of any part of this report without legal title or permission from the author is prohibited.

## References/Bibliography

BS 3998 (2010) *Tree Work - Recommendations*. British Standards Institution. The Stationary Office (TSO), London.

EAS (2021) *European Tree Pruning Standard* - EAS 01:2021.

Hindson T, Moir A & Thomas P (2019). *Estimating the Ages of Yews - Challenging Constant Annual Increment as a suitable model*. Quarterly Journal of Forestry; 113.

ISA (2017) – Smiley T, Matheny N, & Lilly S: *Tree Risk Assessment. Best Management Practices*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. International Society of Arboriculture. Illinois, USA.

White, John (1998) *Estimating the Age of Large and Veteran Trees in Britain*. Information Note 12. The Forestry Commission. Edinburgh, UK.

## Appendix 1: Tree Schedule

*Information in the tree schedule table/s below is given under the following column headings.*

### Tree No.

The reference number for each tree or tree group; for individual specimen trees this refers to the small alloy survey tag stapled to the lower stem of the tree.

### Species

Common name is given; botanical name is also given upon its first entry, in *Italics*; exact variety or forma may not be recorded.

### Age (Life Stage)

A general classification of age category, relative to the species: **SM** = semi-mature, **M** = Mature, **LM** = Late mature, **S** = Senescent, **V** = Ancient/veteran.

### Description

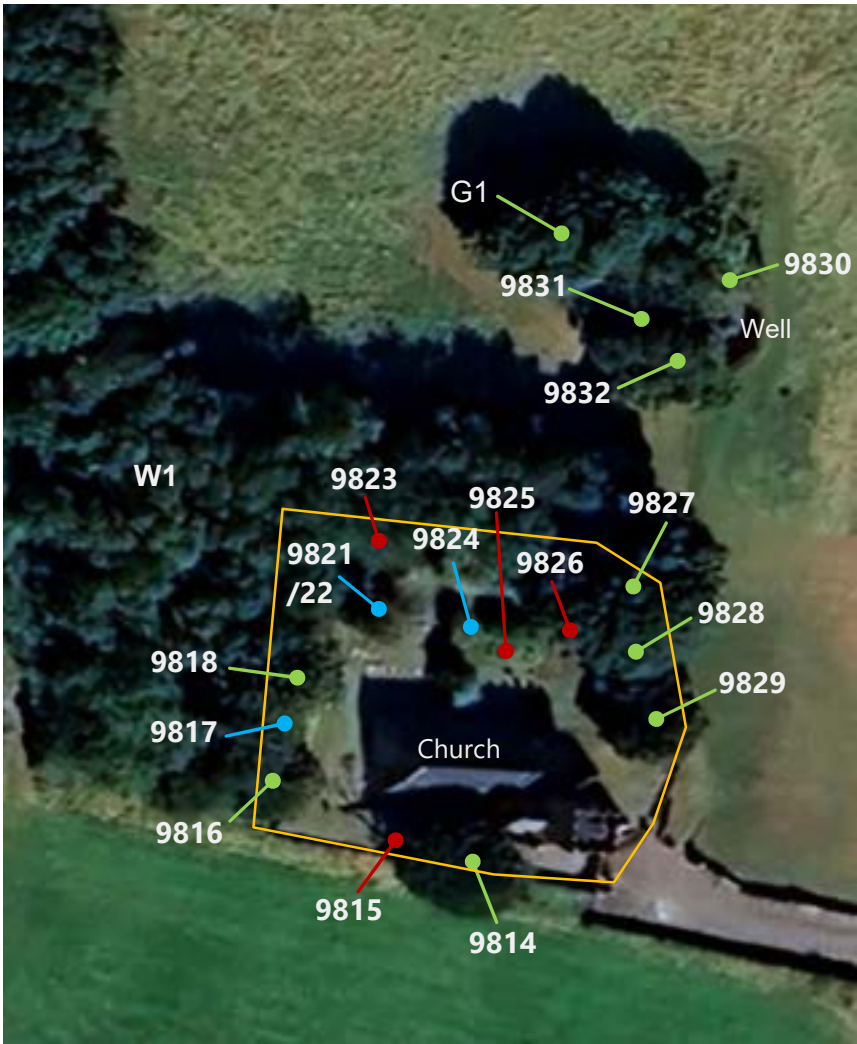
Physiological Condition is described as Good, Fair (average) or Poor - based upon an assessment of the physiological health and vitality of the tree crown. Observations include notes on relevant and apparent features of above ground biomechanical form and condition, location, landscape context, and particular qualities or hazards. Where recorded as relevant, tree **height** is given in metres, as measured with a Trupulse 200™ laser inclinometer; stem **diameter** is (circumference / $\pi$ ) is measured at approximately 1.5 m above ground level.

### Management Recommendations

Specification of advised priority management works, to be undertaken by approved contractors in accordance with BS 3998 (BSI, 2010). Tasks in *italics* are for in-house staff (e.g. *monitor*), and need not be included in any tree work tender. Where options are given for consideration, the first option given is generally preferred, subject to the clients' knowledge of site use, the locality, and their tolerance of risk.

Works are of **General Priority (GP)**, unless specifically stated otherwise as either **High Priority (HP)** – urgent; or as Optional (low priority).

Tree Location Plans





## Tree Schedule

Tree No.	Species	Age class	Description	Management Recommendations	Priority
9814	Yew <i>Taxus baccata</i>	M	Exceptional old specimen. Height 12 m; stem diameter 115.5 cm (measured at 0.5 m height below co-dominant stem fork, diameter was 108 cm. Crown radial spread c. 5 m. Rooted beside southern boundary wall; c. 0.6 m from inner face of wall. Base between 5 – 7 m south of the church building. Crown is live and in good health. Upper NE (north-eastern) crown branch tips near but not touching church building. Typical for species, multiple ascending limbs arising from c. 1 m height above ground. No significant deadwood, disease or instability apparent. A specimen of significant age and historic importance.	- <i>(No priority works currently advised).</i>  If required for church roof clearance – the upper lateral northern crown could be reduced (by c. 1 – 1.5 m) by careful pruning – undertaken by an approved tree work contractor as directed by the consultant arboriculturist.	-  <i>Optional</i>
9815	Japanese Cherry <i>Prunus</i>	M	Beside southern boundary wall, in SE corner of upper terraced lawn of the graveyard. Dead.	Fell. <i>Review stump treatment, and possibility of replacement planting.</i>	GP

Tree No.	Species	Age class	Description	Management Recommendations	Priority
9816	Yew	M	<p>Small old specimen, 5 m north of southern boundary wall, and almost 14 m from the western end of the church building. Stands on the western edge of the graveyard lawn, with old wall 2 m further west of base. Several headstones 7 m north.</p> <p>Multi-stemmed crown in good health. Maybe be of similar age as 9815, but lower stem (trunk) and base obscured by heavy ivy growth.</p> <p>Small remnant box shrub 3 m south of base, and small <i>Viburnum tinus</i> shrub 2m east.</p>	Option to carefully cut basal ivy (i.e. cut ivy stems at near ground level and again at 1 – 1.5 m).	GP
9817	Variegated Privet <i>Ligustrum</i>	M	Small multi-stemmed shrub, in graveyard lawn c. 10.5 m west from western end of church building. Headstones north and north-west of base. Height below c. 4 m. Natural lean (crown asymmetry) east.	<i>Retention optional – remove is required.</i>	
9818	Sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	M	A mid-20 <sup>th</sup> century tree -possibly self-seeded. Fully live and symmetrical crown in good health. Extremely heavy ivy growth entirely engulfs and obscures stem, which forks at c. 3 – 4 m. Base is 1 m west of old railings and headstones, and 16 m west of western end of church building. Possibly on original boundary line of graveyard.	Option to carefully cut basal ivy (will require chainsaw/tree work operatives).	GP

**W1**

Woodland area west and north of graveyard. Essentially a naturalised overgrown area. A young developing woodland, predominantly of self-seeded ash and grey alder – all are slender due to crowded spacing. Several of the ash are early-mature with stem diameters to 30 cm. The grey alders are typically < 20 cm stem diameter. Lower stems are obscured by ivy. Not individually inspected; contains over 60 + trees. No mature trees or specimens of note observed; but one semi-mature native oak [*Quercus robur*] and one early-mature lime [*Tilia x europaea*] noted and tagged – nos. 9819 and 9820.

The majority of the ash are infected with *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* - Ash Dieback Disease (ADB). Several are dead or largely dead. Scattered mortality of several grey alder also (possible causal agent *Phytophthora*).

Ground cover is ivy with occasional sapling elderberry and blackthorn and several clumps of (garden escape) Hypericum.

This area is presumed unoccupied. It is a semi-natural area with some developing habitat value (may require review by an ecologist).

**Recommendation:** Check periodically and fell any dead/dying ash and alder as required if area becomes occupied. A more detailed management plan can be drafted if this area is directly affected by the archaeological Conservation Plan.

Tree No.	Species	Age class	Description	Management Recommendations	Priority
9821	Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	SM	Small multi-stemmed ash in northern lawn area of graveyard. Base 1.5 m NE of headstone. Crown > 50% dead – infected with ADB.	Fell	GP
9822	Holly <i>Ilex</i> sp.	M	Small multi-stemmed bush. Some dieback.	<i>Retention optional – remove if required.</i>	

Tree No.	Species	Age class	Description	Management Recommendations	Priority
9823	Ash	EM/M	On northern edge of graveyard lawn, 19 m north of church building, in overgrown area (SE edge of adjoining W1). Base obscured by ivy. One of two main stems has recently collapsed westwards – its basal union was included and decayed. Crown on remaining northern stem/s infected with ADB. South and east of base along the original graveyard boundary are small remnant elderberry bushes and one small remnant holly bush.	Fell ash – fell adjacent elderberry and holly also if/as required.	HP
9824	Highclere Holly <i>Ilex x altaclarensis</i> cv	EM	Small multi-stemmed variegated holly. Base 1 m from graves. Good condition.	<i>Retention optional</i>	
9825	Holly	EM	Small multi-stemmed holly, c. 5 m height., growing within railed grave. Base 5 m north of church.	Advise remove (fell).	GP
9826	<i>Viburnum tinus</i>	M	Large clump of evergreen shrub, together with a (self-seeded) elderberry bush. Attractive flowering evergreen shrub, but has layered and expanded to grow on top of several graves.	Remove (fell)	GP



Tree No.	Species	Age class	Description	Management Recommendations	Priority
9827	Sycamore	M	In NE corner of graveyard lawn. Large lower stem diameter – engulfed and obscured in ivy. Large spreading crown in good health; crown spread radius c. 9 m. Height 19m. Base 16-22 m north of church building. Old wall immediately north of base. Several low branches extend south over corner of graveyard – no obvious reason or benefit in pruning.  Old elderberry and <i>Euonymus</i> shrub 4 -5 m east of base.	Carefully cut basal ivy – to allow re-assessment and monitoring. <i>Option to fell/remove adjacent elderberry and Euonymus if required.</i>	GP
9828	Yew	M	Small multi-stemmed yew, lower stem engulfed and obscured by ivy.	Carefully cut basal ivy	GP
9829	Yew	M	Another multi-stemmed specimen beside eastern graveyard wall; stem obscured by ivy. Possibly of significant age. Crown health good-fair. Up to 7 m ENE of church building.	Carefully cut basal ivy	GP

Tree No.	Species	Age class	Description	Management Recommendations	Priority
L1	Ash	EM	Along eastern boundary with main Malahide Road (R107). Line of nine early-mature ash, up to c. 13 m height. Rooted on top of grass bank, <b>outside</b> of wall and railings to road. The five southern end ash are dying with ADB.	Advise fell five southern, infected ash (subject to confirmation of ownership). Cut basal ivy on remaining trees and review annually.	GP
L2	Ash & Sycamore	EM/M	Line of c. eight sycamore and ash – beside Malahide Road. Ownership to be confirmed. Stems obscured by ivy. Further north, in the next neighbouring field, are several further (mature) roadside trees	<i>Subject to ownership -</i> Cut basal ivy - to allow inspection for road safety. <i>Review annually.</i>	
L3	Common Lime & Oak	M	Prominent and attractive belt of mature deciduous trees running east-west along field boundary. After one mature oak at the eastern end, L3 is an impressive line of c. 14 large mature common lime (linden). Rooted on lower ground behind hedge vegetation. Bases inaccessible and not individually inspected. Of excellent form and health generally. An historic feature.	<i>If area becomes occupied – carefully cut ivy and vegetation from lower stems and check (assess) individually.</i>	
L4	Ash, alder, grey alder & birch	SM /EM	Western field boundary belt of ash and alder with dense undergrowth. Includes a few grey alder and birch.	-	-

**St. Doulagh's Well**

Tree No.	Species	Age class	Description	Management Recommendations	Priority
9830	Hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	M	Feature, heritage tree. Small old hawthorn, rooting out of and incorporated into the northern wall of sunken enclosure of St Doulagh's Well. A few minor (small) scattered dead branches; crown health fair. Of good form. Stem diameter c. 40 cm; height c. 5 m. Possibly several hundred years old. Likely to have a restricted root-soil area as directly above the underground chamber of St Catherine's Well.	Option (non-priority) to Prune to remove minor deadwood.  <i>Engineer may need to review wall (minor crack).</i>	LP
9831	Silver birch <i>Betula pendula</i>	M	West of St Doulagh's Well. Stems (c. five) obscured by ivy. Crown health good.  Further west, is a small cluster group of early-mature Norway maples G1 ( <i>not inspected as at the time of my survey there were occupied tents among these trees</i> ).	Carefully cut basal ivy – <i>to allow assessment and monitoring.</i>	GP
9832	Alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	M	Triple-stemmed alder east of previous birch. Crown health good. Base within 6 m of St Doulagh's Well building. Box shrub south of base.	Clear ivy and vegetation from base - <i>to allow assessment and monitoring.</i>	GP

