



CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

ST FINTAN'S **CHURCH**,
CARRICKBRACK ROAD,
SUTTON, DUBLIN 13

ON BEHALF OF
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

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TOWNLAND: SUTTON SOUTH AND SUTTON NORTH

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IAC Irish Archaeological
Consultancy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

IAC Archaeology has compiled this study on behalf of Fingal County Council to assess the significance and identify conservation issues associated with St Fintan's church, graveyard and ecclesiastical enclosure, which is located in the townland of Sutton South and Sutton North in the parish of Howth, barony of Coolock, Sutton, Dublin 13 (ITM 726977, 738087). This study was compiled by Paul Duffy of IAC Archaeology and includes inputs from the Project Team (see Section 1.3). This report is an output of the 2024 Community Monuments Fund as administered by Fingal Heritage Office on behalf of the National Monument Service and fulfils actions of the Fingal County Heritage Plan 2024-30.

Summary of objectives

The Conservation Management Plan for St Fintan's church, County Dublin, provides a narrative of the archaeological significance of the fragmented remains of several recorded monuments and places, including a church known as St Fintan's (DU015-031002; RPS 575), a graveyard (DU015-031003), a cross (DU015-031004) and an ecclesiastical enclosure (DU015-031001), while setting out recommendations for the management of the built heritage of St Fintan's church.

The study aims to ensure that the site's unique qualities and significance are understood in order to conserve and safeguard the inherited cultural and historical assets. The project aligns with Section 6 of the 1995 Heritage Act to promote interest, education, knowledge, and pride in, and facilitate the appreciation and enjoyment of the national heritage, and with the actions outlined in the Fingal County Development Plan (2023–2029).

The objectives of the Conservation Management Plan are to:

- outline the significance of the monuments;
- present a brief history and description of the surviving features of medieval and post-medieval Fintan's church and graveyard.
- identify the issues that affect the core values of the various components of the site and of the site in its entirety;
- draft recommendations for effective management of the medieval and post-medieval components of St Fintan's church and graveyard into the future while maintaining and highlighting the integral part that these elements play in the social and cultural significance of the modern local landscape;
- draft recommendations, operable within community networks, to enable communities to take responsibility for and participate in the development and conservation of their heritage assets.

Summary of Significance

The site where St Fintan's church and graveyard are situated may date back to the early medieval period; while the church structure is believed to be Early-Norman in date, with later medieval alterations. The associated graveyard is roughly rectangular in shape, however there is a curve in the boundary along its western edge, indicating the former existing of an early

ecclesiastical enclosure (6th/7th century). The oldest section of the graveyard dates to 1189, and it continued to be in use into the mid-20th century (1954), as evidenced by the presence of headstones of this date within the site (SMR File). A plain granite cross, potentially dating to the period of the ecclesiastical enclosure, is located within the southwestern edition of the graveyard (SMR File).

The surviving above-ground elements along with features that have the potential to survive below ground, are valuable heritage assets which possess a spectrum of significance across a number of designations including archaeological, historical, social, and artistic.

Summary of Conservation Issues

A number of conservation issues challenge the continued integrity of the elements of St Fintan's church and graveyard and their respective settings. These include:

- Degradation of wrought iron roof grille
- Corrosion of wrought iron window grille and gate fittings
- Embedded ivy root in deep fissure in northern wall
- Loss of pointing on all walls and around window and door opes
- Boasted flaunching on east end of the south wall
- Rusted and damaged rails surrounding the Jackson ledger memorial
- Toppled headstones
- Evident use of biocide to control growth around the headstones

Summary of Recommendations

A series of recommendations for conservation of the built heritage of St Fintan's Church and graveyard and future areas of study and potential interpretation are as follows:

- Removal of corroded wrought iron window grille at eastern window and re-pointing of window infill with appropriate Non-Hydraulic Lime mortar.
- Removal of northeast window grille and replacement with a galvanised equivalent etched primed and coated to a selected finish colour.
- Removal of corroded wrought iron door fittings and replacement with a galvanised equivalent etched primed and coated to a selected finish colour. Iron gate to be stripped back and treated.
- Drilling and application of ecoplugs to the embedded ivy root within the fissure in the northern wall.
- Regrouting/repointing of the fissure internally and externally.
- Rake out and finer repointing to the reveals of the stonework to the window and door openings including internal recesses.
- Rake out of sand cement and repointing generally above the modern membrane line to the north, south and east elevation internally and externally, taking care to preserve the surviving internal render.
- Remove boasted flaunching on the wall top on the east end of the south wall, adjoining the east gable, and replace with flaunching using Non-Hydraulic Lime sand mix.

- Publication of an article detailing the results of the study. A version of same to be drafted for a local paper (Northside People) and for dissemination on Fingal County Council website and any future digital resource such as StoryMap as part of the broader strategy identified by the Howth Heritage Audit.
- That consideration be given to establishing a research project into St Fintan and his local associations.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

This Conservation Management Plan has been commissioned by Fingal County Council to assess the significance and identify conservation issues associated with St. Fintan's church and graveyard, which is located at Carrickbrack Road, Sutton, Dublin 13 (ITM 726977, 738087; Figure 1). This study was compiled by Paul Duffy of IAC Archaeology, drawing on information furnished by the Project Team and arising from collaborative engagement to identify issues, vulnerabilities and threats at the monument.

This Conservation Management Plan has been developed in line with international best practice guidelines as outlined in James Semple Kerr's *The Conservation Plan – Seventh Edition* (2013) and endorsed and upheld by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), Venice (1964), Washington (1987) and Burra (1981) charters. The study addresses cultural heritage issues in an integrated manner.

As per the guidance notes issued by the National Monuments Service as part of the 2024 Community Monuments Fund rollout:

A Conservation Management Plan should encompass a long-term vision where a monument can be interpreted based on all available evidence, where there is a clear vision for what is intended in the future and where works can be programmed and costed to achieve that vision in a structured way.

1.2 OBJECTIVES

The study aims to ensure that the site's unique qualities and significance are understood in order to conserve and safeguard the inherited cultural and historical assets. The project aligns with Section 6 of the 1995 Heritage Act to promote interest, education, knowledge, and pride in, and facilitate the appreciation and enjoyment of the national heritage, and with the actions outlined in the Fingal County Development Plan (2023–2029).

The objectives of the Conservation Management Plan are to:

- outline the significance of the monuments;
- present a brief history and description of the surviving features of medieval and post-medieval St Fintan's church and graveyard;
- identify the issues that affect the core values of the various components of the site and of the site in its entirety;
- draft policies for effective management of the medieval and post-medieval components of St Fintan's church and graveyard into the future while maintaining and highlighting the integral part that these elements play in the social and cultural significance of the modern local landscape;
- deliver a practical programme, operable within community networks, to enable communities to take responsibility for and participate in the development and conservation of their heritage assets.

The study will inform the day-to-day and long-term management of the various elements discussed. It will be a working document that is open to periodic review, with additions or amendments being made as conditions change.

1.3 PROJECT TEAM

The following is a summary of the team involved in developing and delivering this study.

- Paul Duffy: Lead Author, IAC Archaeology
- David Maher: Conservation Engineer, David Maher & Associates
- Enda Lydon: Surveyor, IAC Archaeology
- Josephine Fowler: Researcher, IAC Archaeology
- Brian O'Connor: Executive Architect/Conservation Architect, Fingal County Council
- Christine Baker: Heritage Officer, Fingal County Council
- Karen de Lacey: County Archivist, Fingal County Council

2 CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN METHODOLOGY

The Conservation Management Plan seeks to set out what is significant in a place and identify what policies are appropriate to enable that significance to be retained in its future use and development.

The methodology involved two principal stages, namely Stage I – Understanding the Place. Stage I of the process seeks to set out:

- What the current location, physical composition and current presentation of a monument or place is;
- Why that monument or place is culturally or materially significant;
- How that significance may be vulnerable.

And Stage II – Conservation Policy and its implementation which seeks to:

- Assess the source of the issues faced by a monument or place;
- Evaluate the potential impact or change and development on or close to the monument or place;
- Advise and manage that change in order to conserve by adding value.

Gathering evidence for the Conservation Management Plan has been undertaken in two phases. The first phase comprised a paper survey of all available archaeological, architectural, historical, and cartographic sources. The second phase involved a field inspection of the monument, the overall site, and its overall setting.

2.1 PAPER SURVEY

The following sources were examined to provide background, context, and specific detail on the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage of the monument, and the overall site of St Fintan's church and graveyard.

- Record of Monuments and Places for County Dublin;
- Sites and Monuments Record for County Dublin;
- Monuments in State Care Database;
- Preservation Orders;
- Database of current archaeological investigation licences;
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographic and written sources relating to the study area;
- Fingal County Development Plan 2023-2029;
- Fingal Heritage Plan 2024–2030;
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage;
- Place name analysis – Logainm.ie;
- Schools Folklore Collection Co. Dublin;
- Aerial photographs;
- Excavations Bulletin (1970-2024)

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a list of archaeological sites known to the National Monuments Section, which are afforded legal protection under Section 12 of the 1994 National Monuments Act and are published as a record. While the new Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 was enacted in October 2023, most of the Act has not yet entered into force, pending Ministerial Commencement Orders that will repeal the National Monuments Acts.

Cartographic sources are important in tracing land use development within the development area as well as providing important topographical information on areas of archaeological potential and the development of buildings. Cartographic analysis of all relevant maps have been made to identify any topographical anomalies or structures that no longer remain within the landscape.

- William Wright, *The Barrony of Coolock in the County of Dublin*, 1655
- John Rocque's, *Survey of the City, Harbour and Environs of Dublin*, 1757
- John Rocque's, *An Actual Survey of the County of Dublin*, 1760
- John Taylor's, *Map of the Environs of Dublin*, 1816
- Ordnance Survey maps 1843, 1871-5, 1909-10, 1940-61

Documentary sources were consulted to gain background information on the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage landscape of St Fintan's church and graveyard.

Aerial photographic coverage is an important source of information regarding the precise location of sites and their extent. It also provides initial information on the terrain and its likely potential for archaeology. A number of sources were consulted including aerial photographs held by the Geological Survey of Ireland, the Ordnance Survey and Google Earth.

Place Names are an important part in understanding both the archaeology and history of an area. Place names can be used for generations and in some cases have been found to have their root deep in the historical past.

Fingal County Development Plan 2023-2029 contains a catalogue of all the Protected Structures and archaeological sites within the county. The Fingal County Development Plan was consulted to obtain information on cultural heritage sites in and within the immediate vicinity of St Fintan's church and graveyard.

Fingal Heritage Plan 2024–2030 contains an action plan for the heritage of the county up to 2030. It also contains a synopsis of the relevant legislation governing sites and an explanation of the levels of protection afforded to different monuments.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage is a government-based organisation tasked with making a nationwide record of significant local, regional, national, and international structures, which in turn provides county councils with a guide as to what structures to list within the Record of Protected Structures. The architectural survey for County Fingal was completed in 2000. The NIAH have also carried out a nationwide desk-based survey of historic gardens, including demesnes that surround large houses. This has also been completed for County Fingal and was examined in relation to the surviving demesnes within the surrounding area of St. Fintan's church and graveyard.

Place name analysis – Logainm.ie is a comprehensive management system for data, archival records and place names research conducted by the State. The website is made available as a public resource and administered by DCU and DAHRRGA.

Schools Folklore Collection - Dúchas.ie In 1937 the Irish Folklore Commission, in collaboration with the Department of Education and the Irish National Teachers' Organisation, initiated a revolutionary scheme in which schoolchildren were encouraged to collect and document folklore and local history. The website makes these entries available as a public resource and administered by UCD, the National Folklore Collection, the National Folklore Foundation, DCU and DAHRRGA.

Excavations Bulletin is a summary publication that has been produced every year since 1970. This summarises every archaeological excavation that has taken place in Ireland during that year up until 2010 and since 1987 has been edited by Isabel Bennett. This information is vital when examining the archaeological content of any area, which may not have been recorded under the SMR and RMP files. This information is also available online (www.excavations.ie) from 1970–2024.

2.2 FIELD INSPECTION

Field inspection is necessary to determine the extent and nature of archaeological and architectural remains, and can also lead to the identification of previously unrecorded or suspected sites and portable finds through topographical observation and local information.

- Visiting and assessing the condition of each of the monuments;
- Walking the graveyard of St Fintan's and its immediate environs;
- Noting and recording the terrain type and land usage;
- Noting and recording the presence of features of archaeological, architectural, or cultural heritage significance;

- Verifying the extent and condition of recorded sites;
- Visually investigating any suspect landscape anomalies to identify potentially unrecorded features of cultural heritage significance.

3 UNDERSTANDING THE MONUMENT

3.1 TOPOGRAPHY AND LANDSCAPE SETTING

St. Fintan's church, graveyard and associated features are located within the townlands of Sutton North (primarily) and Sutton South (partially), Carrickbrack Road, Sutton, Dublin 13 (726977, 738087; Figure 1). The site is located at an elevation of 40m O.D., c. 1.9km southwest of the historic core of the village of Howth on the southern side of the Howth Peninsula overlooking Dublin Bay, Bull Island and low-lying areas including Baldoyle and Kilbarrack. The townland boundaries of Howth Demesne and Howth are located c. 88m north and c. 210m southeast, respectively.



FIGURE 1: Site location showing nearby archaeology and townland boundaries

St Fintan's graveyard has been extended significantly to the southeast and northwest. The oldest section is located in the hollow that surrounds St Fintan's church and comprises the historic graveyard DU015-031003. To the east is the 1907 section and to the west is the 1954 section. The newest section extends downslope to the west and is known as the 'lawn' as it contains only flat gravemarkers.¹

The site is located to the north of a modern structure utilised as Bumblebee Montessori and Childcare. The plot is partially covered by trees in the western portion, and maintained lawn/grass within the northern section, with the remainder of the site occupied by the graveyard. Carrickbrack lays just beyond the cemetery to the east. An astroturf playing pitch associated with Sutton Park School borders the site to the west, with an extension of St Fintan's cemetery to the northwest, separated from the site by a small laneway and hedge. The townland boundary between Sutton North and Sutton South crosses the site through the

¹ *Fingal Historic Graveyards Project* 2008. Fingal County Council.

south-western portion. It displays a slight curve, which marks the possible location of the former ecclesiastical enclosure ditch.

3.2 OWNERSHIP OF THE SITE AND STATUTORY PROTECTIONS

The ownership of the monument and the legislative requirements governing the site are key factors in understanding and implementing any recommendations made by the Conservation Management Plan. Following the passing of the Poor Law Act in 1838, ownership of the site at St Fintan's was passed to the North Dublin Poor Law Union. Burials were administered by the Burial Board and in 1918, this responsibility was transferred to the Howth Urban District Council. St Fintan's church and graveyard are currently under the ownership of Fingal County Council.

The site is a recorded monument (DU015-031001-004) and is listed as a protected structure in the Fingal County Development Plan (RPS 575). As such it is subject to statutory protection under the National Monuments Act, Section 12 (1930–2014) and the Planning and Development Act (2000). While the new Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 was enacted in October 2023, most of the Act has not yet entered into force, pending Ministerial Commencement Orders that will repeal the National Monuments Acts. When the owner or occupier of a property, or any other person proposes to carry out, or to cause, or to permit the carrying out of any work at or in relation to a Recorded Monument 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 National Monuments Service time to consider the proposed works and how best to proceed to further the protection of the monument.

3.3 HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

3.3.1 Historical Background

St Fintan's church and graveyard are located in the townlands of Sutton South and Sutton North in the parish of Howth, barony of Coolock. The townland boundaries of Howth Demesne and Howth are located c. 88m north and c. 210m southeast, respectively.

The site comprises the fragmented remains of a church known as St. Fintan's (DU015-031001; RPS 575) and associated graveyard (DU015-031003; NIAH 11358033), encompassed within an early ecclesiastical enclosure (DU015-031001). Furthermore, a small stone cross (DU015-031004), believed to be associated with the ecclesiastical site, is situated within the cemetery, c. 40m to the south of the church.

During the early medieval period, Sutton was located within the territory of the Gailenga, known as *Túath Tuirbe*, a name now preserved in the placename Turvey, near Donabate.² This area was to see an influx of Scandinavian settlers from the 9th century and would, as a result, become known as *Fine Gall*, an area under the control of the Hiberno-Norse kings of Dublin.

² Paul MacCotter, 2008. *Medieval Ireland: territorial, political and economic divisions*. (Four Courts Press, Dublin), p. 166.

The church site at Sutton is believed to have been an early medieval monastic centre founded in the 6th or 7th century.³ The standing structure has been characterised in publications as ‘Early Norman’ in date, incorporating re-used material from earlier structures on site.⁴

The dedication of the site to a St Fintan is attested to in cartographic sources from the 18th century. While there are more than fifty St Fintans recorded in historic sources very little else is recorded of these saints.⁵ Ó Riain suggests that ‘some of the minor churches associated with Fiontan may reflect the spread of the cult of the most important bearer of the name Fiontan of Clonenagh.’⁶ This saint, believed to have lived in the 6th century, was associated with the *Uí Dúnlainge* dynasty,⁷ a branch of which – the *Uí Dunachada*, later known as *MacGillaMo-Cholmoc* – held important landholdings in the town of Dublin pre and post invasion.

It must also be noted in the context of Howth that a Fintan appears in medieval Irish literature as a survivor of a great flood who lived for hundreds of years, living as different animals, and gaining wisdom.⁸ The name Fintan is also closely linked with the name Fionn, with Fintan meaning ‘old Fionn’. There are numerous Fenian stories linking Fionn to *Binn Eadair*, or the hill of Howth; suggestive of a localised cult of Fionn or Fintan in the Sutton area; consequently, the ecclesiastical enclosure may have been in reference to or a reappropriation of these local beliefs, rather than relating to the Christian St Fintan.⁹

3.4 HISTORIOGRAPHY OF THE SITE

Historical references to St Fintan’s Church are rare in the sources and this study has not identified any surviving medieval references to the church. From the 17th century, mentions of the church begin to appear, though it seems that by this time the building was ruinous. This scarcity of written references is counterbalanced by the surprising number of cartographic and pictorial representations of the church from the 17th to 20th centuries, due in the main to a spike in antiquarian interest in the second half of the 19th century.

While Sutton is mentioned as part of the ‘rector of Howth’s tenement’¹⁰ in the 13th century, no mention of a church here is made. St Fintan’s church and ecclesiastical enclosure are mentioned, though not by name, in the 1654 Civil Survey of County Dubin. In describing the landholding of William Gough of Sutton (listed as an Irish Papist), his western boundary is described as ‘Corkins bank and a ditch leading to a Chappel’.¹¹ In the following year, the enclosure and ruined chapel are depicted on William Wright’s Down Survey map of the Barony of Coolock where an east-west aligned, roofless church is shown surrounded by a ring of trees

³ Resurrecting Monuments Group, 2019. *A guide to the Archaeology of the Howth Peninsula: a story of Howth and its people*. Dublin, p. 48.

⁴ Vincent McBrierty, 1981. *The Howth Peninsula: Its History, Lore & Legend*, Dublin. p. 54.

⁵ Padraig Ó Riain, 2011. *A Dictionary of Irish Saints*. (Four Courts Press, Dublin), p.338.

⁶ *ibid*

⁷ Ailbhe MacShamhráin 1996. *Church and Polity in Pre-Norman Ireland*. (an Sagart Maynooth), p. 79.

⁸ Daithí O Hógain 1991. *Myth, Legend & Romance: An encyclopaedia of the Irish Folk Tradition*, (Prentice Hall, New Jersey), p.224.

⁹ Fingal.ie

¹⁰ Charles MacNeil (ed.), 1950. *Calendar of Archbishop Alen's register, c. 1172-1534*. (Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, Dublin), p. 79.

¹¹ Simington, R. C., 1945. *The Civil Survey 1654, Volume VII, Dublin County*. The Stationary Office, Dublin. P. 168

and nestled within a curving boundary that defines land marked as 'Sutton' to the south and 'Hoath' to the north. St Fintan's Church is shown with high gables, two windows on the southern wall and two windows in the western gable (Figure 2). It is notable that no bellcote is depicted. Though it is not certain if the church is accurately rendered, the curving line of the adjacent boundary and the ring of trees suggests a familiarity with the site. Some attempt at accuracy has also been made with the nearby buildings of Howth Castle which is illustrated as a tower house and adjoining hall and Corr Castle.



FIGURE 2: Extract from *The Barrony of Coolock in the County of Dublin*, William Wright 1655, showing St Fintan's Church and enclosure

John Rocque made several maps that included the Howth peninsula in the mid-18th century. All of these depict a single church on the site with some suggestion of a curving boundary evident (Figure 3).



FIGURE 3: Extract from John Rocque's, 1757 of Dublin and environs¹²



FIGURE 4: Extract from John Taylor's Map of the environs of Dublin, 1816 showing 'St. Fontons Church'

¹² John Rocque, 1757, *A Survey of the City, Harbour, Bay and Environs of Dublin on the same Scale as those of London, Paris & Rome*

John Taylor's map of the environs of Dublin includes a remarkable isometric view of 'St Fonton's church.' This vignette is remarkable on a number of levels; firstly, Taylor is not given to representing structures in this way with only a very rare few such isometric views; and secondly, his representation of St Fintan's is perhaps the most detailed appearing on his map of Dublin and environs, an area replete with buildings and ruins of interest. Taylor's representation depicts an oversized roofless, single cell church with very steeply pitched gables. The western gable is depicted with a low, flat-lintelled doorway and a narrow, centrally placed window above and the gable walls are shown as battered. There is no bellcote depicted. What is however, perhaps of most significance are the two other buildings depicted immediately to the west of the principal church. No other historical or pictorial evidence for other buildings on the site survive, however the possibility of other churches having stood on the site has been suggested by several scholars and is discussed below.

The earliest scholarly written mention of the church at Sutton comes from the writings of Thomas Bell who incorrectly identified 'St Fenton's' as the smallest church in Ireland. The bellcote was extant this early, as mentioned in his description:

In the neighbourhood of Howth, near Sutton, there is another small chapel, or oratory, dedicated to St.Fenton, remarkable for little else, than being, as I think, the smallest place of worship in existence ; its dimensions not exceeding twelve feet in length, by about eight feet broad. There is, however, a small belfry attached to one end of it, over the Pointed arch entrance; and the eastern window forms a rude cinque-foiled arch, but very small. This chapel or oratory is also in ruin.¹³

Samuel Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* (vol 2, 1837, p. 13).¹⁴

To the west of the castle are the ruins of a small oratory, with a bell turret over the entrance, dedicated to St. Fenton.

This description comes in the same year that the Ordnance Survey mapping was likely surveyed and the curving boundary shown in the Down Survey mapping is clearly shown to the west with the church on the western side of the graveyard (Figure 5). No other structures are shown. In the following year, with the passing of the Poor Law Act, ownership of the site at St Fontan's was passed to the North Dublin Poor Law Union.

¹³ Thomas Bell, 1829. *An Essay on the Origin and Progress of Gothic Architecture* (Dublin), p.180.

¹⁴ Samuel Lewis, 1837. *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, Volume 2*. Lewis and Co., London.



FIGURE 5: Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1837

John D'Alton writing the following year also mentions 'a small belfry', a 'pointed arch entrance' and a 'very small, rude cinquefoil arch'.¹⁵ We get our first view of these features with Du Noyer's depictions of the church in 1846 and 1847 (Figures 6 and 7).



FIGURE 6: Watercolour view of St Fintan's church from the east¹⁶

¹⁵ John D'Alton, 1838. *The History of the County of Dublin*. Hoges and Smith, Dublin.

¹⁶ St Fintans Church; Howth; George V. Du Noyer. Delt. May 1846
(https://www.europeana.eu/en/item/2058619/object_DP_7920266)



FIGURE 7: Sketch of western gable, St Fintan's church c. 1841¹⁷

Du Noyer's depictions show the church as it appears today in most particulars. The cinquefoil eastern window, the round headed and flat headed small windows in the southern wall, the bellcote with circular ope above the door and the pointed arch doorway are all depicted in detail. The northern side of the door arch is missing one or more voussoirs from the apex. The eastern window, has not yet been blocked up. The surroundings are shown as untended with low bushes or saplings growing around. The suggestion of a low bank skirting the northern side of the church may be seen in the sketch of the west gable. A clump of vegetation is depicted growing at the southeast corner of the church with a sapling emerging from the scrub. This sapling may well be the young deciduous tree depicted in this location by Edward McFarland in 1853 (Figure 8). McFarland's painting, while lacking the clarity and detail of Du Noyer's images, conveys a sense of the setting and depicts the church as a well-kept structure with a small amount of grass and weed growth on the wall tops. A large, ostentatious memorial dominates the foreground and this can be identified with the Jackson Pedestal Tomb that is still extant, though now surrounded by an iron-railed enclosure. The presence of the Jackson tomb presents a slight problem of chronology as Joseph Devonsher Jackson did not die until 1857,¹⁸ four years after the apparent date of McFarland's painting. The remainder of the graves are marked with rough stones reminiscent of the upright stones still extant to the east and south of the church.

¹⁷ George Victor Du Noyer, c. 1841 "[untitled] St Fintan's church Sutton," Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, accessed October 8, 2024, <http://rsai.loccloudhosting.net/items/show/23800>.

¹⁸ Fingal Historic Graves, p. 12



FIGURE 8: St Fenton's Church (ruins) Edward McFarland 1853¹⁹

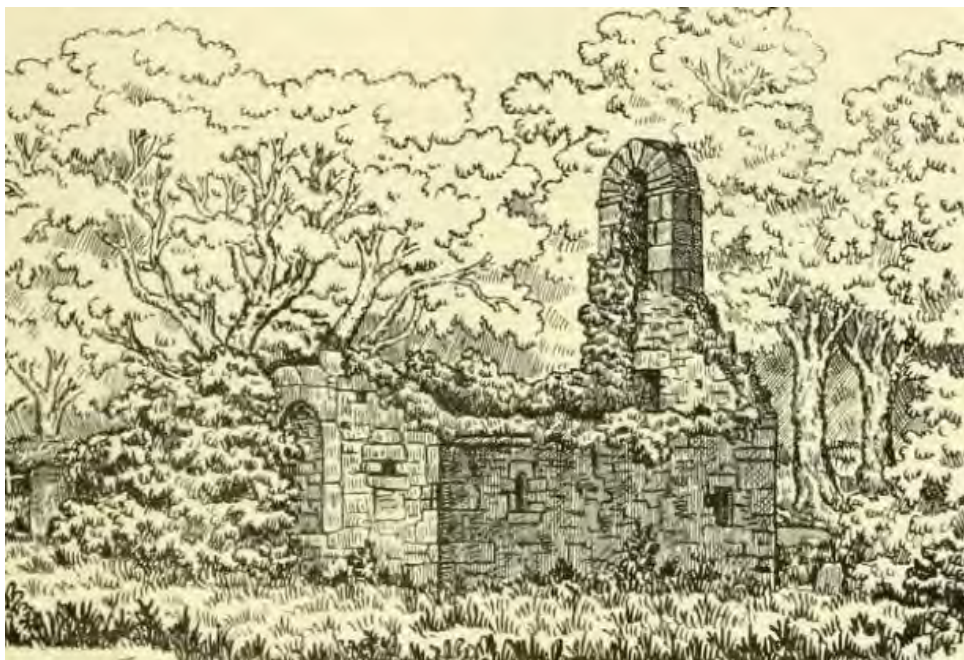


FIGURE 9: T. J. Westropp's sketch of the church, dated to 1887, as published in McCready, 1893

T. J. Westropp sketched the church in 1887 and the tree in the southeast corner has become a large mature tree with spreading boughs. Vegetation around the base of the tree obscures the southern half of the eastern gable, but the eastern window can be seen to be blocked up. Significant ivy growth covers the wall tops and the inner southern face of the western gable

¹⁹ Edward McFarland 1853. *A drive from Dublin to Howth returning by Clontarf*
<https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000245549>

and lower bellcote. The surrounds are overgrown with some headstones partially visible emerging from high grass and bushes. Two square putlog holes are visible in the eastern gable, one at a lower level (still extant) and one at a higher level which is no longer extant, indicating a lowering of the pitch of the gable.

Antiquarian interest gathered pace in the final years of the 19th century, beginning with Robert Walsh, writing in 1888²⁰:

On the W. slope of the Hill of Howth, near Sutton, are the ruins of this little chapel, about 21 feet long by 12 feet wide outside. They have been well preserved and are very perfect. A small door is in the W. Over it is a curious circular window, about one foot in diameter, made of two rudely cut stones, and all is surmounted by a one-arched bellturret. In the E. gable is a small oblong window, with rudely cut stone jambs, surmounted by a rough arch. There are some very quaint small square windows in the N. and S. walls, and within, three square niches. The Saint, or his disciples, chose a lovely site. They had before them all the panorama of Ath-Cliath and its harbour, with their glorious background of mountains. It is impossible to say when this oratory was built.

Three years later, Wakeman included the following description in his *Archaeologia Hibernica* (p. 129):²¹

This singular building measures upon the interior but sixteen feet and a half, by seven feet and eight inches, yet it contains five windows: one to the east, two to the south, one to the north, and one in the west gable. The windows are of various forms: that to the east has a semicircular head, with a multifoil moulding; one of the windows in the south side wall is covered with a single stone, out of which a semicircular arch head is cut, while the other is quadrangular. All the windows splay upon the interior. A doorway in the lancet form is placed in the western gable, which supports a bell turret of considerable dimensions, and quite out of proportion to the size of the structure. It contains one small, pointed aperture for a bell.

Wakeman was followed in 1893 by Robert Cochrane who wrote, what remains the most comprehensive description of the building and its features, illustrated with photographs, line drawings and sketches of the church and its features²²:

The structure as it now stands is, in my opinion, 'a thing of shreds and patches'. It is formed of the 'survivals' of at least two churches of much greater dimensions than the present church, and the other was of about the same size as the structure now extant.

²⁰ Robert Walsh, 1888. *Fingal and its churches: a historical sketch of the foundation and struggles of the Church of Ireland in that part of the County Dublin which lies to the north of the river Tolka*, (William McGee, Dublin), p. 231

²¹ William F. Wakeman, 1891. *Archaeologia Hibernica: a hand-book of Irish antiquities, pagan and Christian*, 2nd ed., Dublin, London: Hodges, Figgis & Co, Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co.

²² Robert Cochrane, 1893. 'Notes on the Ecclesiastical Antiquities in the Parish of Howth, County of Dublin' in *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, pp 386-396



PLATE 1: Blocked up west window, 1893²⁴



FIGURE 10: North-west view of St Fintan's Church, Howth, drawn by J. M. Kavanagh²³

That Cochrane is describing the building as it appears today is clear from his descriptions and plans and is further reinforced by the accompanying line drawing which shows the northern wall prior to the erection of the Bellingham enclosure (Figure 10). The large tree at the southwestern corner is still standing and a heavy growth of ivy covers the bellcote. A photograph of the inside of the infilled eastern window clearly shows the same stone infill that currently survives.

²³ Cochrane 1893, 'Notes...', p. 387.

²⁴ Cochrane 1893, 'Notes...', p. 391.

In the same year C. T. McCready included a short note on the church in his paper on the antiquities of Howth and was drawn into ascribing a later medieval date, presumably on the basis of the form of the eastern window:²⁵

St. Fintan's Church — This Church, with burial-ground and well, is on the south or Sutton side of the peninsula. The building, which is small (16 ft. X 8 ft.), being little more than an oratory, may date from early in the fourteenth century.



FIGURE 11: Margaret Stokes' drawing of 'St Fintan's Church'²⁶

An incredibly atmospheric illustration of the church at sunset by Margaret Stokes was published in her father's biography in 1898. The image is given a deeper layer of resonance when considering Margaret captured the location of her own resting place in the image. This is the only one of the antiquarian images to present a view of the southern wall, sacrificing the architectural interest of the northern windows in favour of a sweeping view over the Sutton isthmus and Baldoyle estuary beyond. This is the only view of the southeast window prior to its reconstruction in the later 20th century and while the image is very dark, it can be seen that the opening did not, at this time boast any cut stone surrounds. Of much more importance to the reading of the site is the representation of the enclosing bank which is hinted at in the foreground (east of the church), though partly obscured with long grass, but is discernible as a strong line curving around the northern side of the church. The openness of the site and the

²⁵ C. T. McCready, 1893 'Howth: its objects of antiquarian and general interest' *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* p. 445

²⁶ Published in William Stokes, 1898. *William Stokes, his Life and Work*, (Unwin, London).

expansive view northwards and eastwards is brilliantly evoked and is an important factor in understanding the original context of the church- something that does not come across in other depictions of the church, nor indeed in the current experience of visiting site.

A lantern slide from about this time survives in the collections of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland which shows the northern wall of the church (reversed; Plate 2) with grass growing from the wall tops and the large tree in leaf (this looks to be either an oak or a beech). A tall stand of nettles partially obscures the eastern gable where two putlog holes are visible, as per Westropp's sketch.



PLATE 2: Lantern slide showing the northern wall of St Fintan's Church c. 1890s²⁷.

By the end of the 19th century, the interest in St Fintan's was such that in October 1893, almost one hundred members of the Royal Society of Antiquaries visited the site during an excursion to Howth. Having visited Howth Castle and St Mary's Church and having had lunch at the St. Lawrence Hotel, the party went around the Hill of Howth in a car and visited St Fintan's where Robert Cochrane stood and read a paper on 'the curious little church.' Apparently quite a number of the members missed this talk as they had been 'detained by the hospitality' of Miss Margaret Stokes, a very well-known antiquarian, who was displaying her collection of curiosities at her nearby house Carraig Breac. Stokes and many of the members of her illustrious family are buried in St. Fintan's.²⁸

²⁷ Sophie Hogan, "St. Fintan's Church, Sutton, Co. Dublin, Ireland," Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, accessed October 8, 2024, <http://rsai.loccloudhosting.net/items/show/26327>

²⁸ 'Proceedings', *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, 3:4, 1893, pp. 441–54.

Ball, in his *History of the County of Dublin* (1917), includes a passage containing the now familiar formula of a brief description of the building, praise for its location and statement that little else can be said about the church or its founder:²⁹

About the same period that the sons of Nesson settled upon Ireland's Eye, a holy man called Fintan established himself on the southern side of the peninsula of Howth. As Dr. Cochrane remarks in the paper to which reference has been made, it is impossible owing to the number of saints called Fintan to identify with certainty the particular one whom Howth claims as its patron. His monument survives, however, in a ruined church on the southern side of the peninsula at the base of Shelmartin. This church is a simple oblong building, with a belfry rising over the gable of its western wall. It deviates from the rectangular, measuring internally on the north sixteen feet six inches, on the south sixteen feet eight inches, on the east seven feet seven inches, and on the west eight feet one inch. In the opinion of Dr. Cochrane it is of late date, and comprises the remains of a primitive oratory and of a mediaeval church of larger dimensions. Amongst the details Dr. Cochrane describes the east window, which has a semi-circular head and is grooved for glass; windows in the north and south walls near the north-west and south-east angles ; the doorway, which is in the western end and has a pointed arch ; a recess in the north wall and two recesses in the south wall, which are constructed of stones cut for other purposes ; and a small circular window, which is made out of a solid block, and has four short arms grooved, over the doorway. He suggests that there may have been originally a group of churches on the site and draws attention to the disproportion of the belfry to the rest of the building as indication of more enthusiasm than discretion on the part of its designer.

²⁹ Francis Erlington Ball, 1917 *A History of the County of Dublin, Volume V: Howth and its Owners* (Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, Dublin) p.19



PLATE 3: St Fintan's Church, facing south by T.F. Geoghegan c. 1917 (in Ball, p. 15)

Ball's entry is accompanied by a photograph of roughly the same date showing the grass topped walls, the mature tree and the encroaching nettles and briar (Plate 3). This is the first depiction of the church within which a large crack running from the top to the base of the northern wall can be seen about halfway along its length. In the foreground, a fresh looking upright gravestone, a chest tomb and two iron railed enclosures are visible. This is the earliest photographic record of memorials on the site.

A slightly later photo shows a similar view with the railed Bellingham enclosure in place against the northern wall (Plate 4). In this image, the oak/beech tree at the southeast corner of the church has either toppled or has lost most of its boughs, one of which lies broken across the eastern gable. The large crack in the southern wall is still evident.



PLATE 4: Photo showing the northern wall of the church with Bellingham enclosure present, c. 1920³⁰



PLATE 5: St Fintan's oratory, Howth, 1927³¹

³⁰ [https://www.fingal.ie/arts-and-culture/st-fintans-well c. 1890-1910](https://www.fingal.ie/arts-and-culture/st-fintans-well-c.1890-1910)

³¹ <https://source.southdublinlibraries.ie/handle/10599/1551>

A picture taken a few years later shows ivy growth subsuming the northern wall and encroaching into the Bellingham enclosure. There is also heavy growth on the eastern gable. The ivy on the bellcote appears to have been cut at root and is dead but still in place. Otherwise the structure appears as it does today, without the metal roof grating.

In recent times, St Fintan's has not featured in publications on the medieval architecture of Dublin or Ireland beyond a few of the following short entries.

One such example of these simple medieval parish church remains which still dot the Irish countryside is that of St Fintan in Sutton, Co. Dublin. In plan it is little more than a tiny box with no structural division between nave and chancel and is 6.7m long and 3.8m wide. With its western doorway and fragments of sandstone window tracery it is probably of twelfth century date. There was probably an earlier church here from the 7th century but no trace of it remains today.³²

St Fintan's in Sutton has a heavily rebuilt west doorway, sandstone window mouldings and massive masonry internally at the base of the south wall, indicating at least a 12th-century date, if not earlier. The west gable is surmounted by a bellcote for a single bell.³³

The massive stones at the base of the south wall of St Fintan's Church in Sutton suggest that at least some of parts of this church were built in the 12th century, if not earlier.³⁴

In 2019, a Cultural Heritage assessment of Red Rock/Sutton Castle included the published information from both the RMP and NIAH but no further observations relevant to the church or graveyard were made.³⁵

In 2020, the site was included in Lorcan Harney's gazeteer of early medieval ecclesiastical enclosures of Dublin.³⁶

3.5 EXPANSION OF THE BURIAL GROUND AND CARETAKER'S COTTAGE

St Fintan's isn't mentioned in the North Dublin Union minutes until 10th August 1887 when the Local Government Board forwards them a copy of a letter sent by Lord Howth and asks them to send on a report regarding the matter. This letter was reproduced the following day in the *Freeman's Journal*:

"Sir, I accept the responsibility of seeking advice from the Local Government Board on the following subject. The burial ground of Saint Fenton's, Sutton, Howth, is situated on a lonesome site and is practically unprotected. Within the last three weeks, as the police of Howth can testify, there have been no less than five interments, two from Clontarf

³² Barry, T. B. (1987). *The Archaeology of Medieval Ireland*. (Routledge, London) p. 140-1

³³ Mary McMahon, 1991. *The medieval church sites of North Dublin: a heritage trail*. (The Stationary Office, Dublin). p. 31

³⁴ Margaret Murphy and Michael Potterton, 2010. *The Dublin Region in the Middle Ages*. (Four Courts Press, Dublin). p. 209.

³⁵ CRDS, 2019. *Cultural Heritage Study, Redrock/Sutton Castle*. Unpublished report on behalf of Fingal county Council.

³⁶ Lorcan Harney, 2020. 'The early medieval ecclesiastical enclosures of Dublin,' in Seán Duffy (ed.) *Medieval Dublin XVIII* (Four Courts Press, Dublin), pp. 17-127.

and the remainder believed to be from Dublin, at night and without the service of a clergyman. The object, it is believed, is to avoid burial fees. One of these interments has somewhat encroached on the resting place of the late eminent Dr. Stokes and his family are much distressed and anxious. There are also the family vaults within the churchyard of old and respected families. I hope the local government board will undertake to deal efficiently with this sad abuse. I have the honour etc, Howth."

The Local Government Board had also received a letter from Sir William Stokes, a well-known Irish surgeon regarding these illegal interments in St Fintan's. The Stokes family owned Carraig Breac House and members of the family were very well known in the medical field and as antiquarians and Celtic scholars.

Due to these interventions, it was decided that a committee consisting of some of the local guardians, the Chair of the Burial Board, two priests, Mr Fergus O'Neill (the land holder directly adjacent to the graveyard) and Sir William Stokes would meet at St Fintan's on 5th September 1887 to consider whether it could be fenced in. After this initial meeting, another was held on the 9th October in which they examined the possibility of procuring additional land to enlarge the burial ground. In January 1888, the Clerk of the Burial Board wrote to Lord Howth to request that he give, without charge, half a statute acre of the lands held under lease by Fergus O'Neill for the purpose of enlarging the graveyard. Lord Howth agreed to this provided that the tenant gave his consent and that the work be carried out within six months. Fergus O'Neill, the tenant in question, wanted compensation and negotiations continued until it was decided that he would receive the sum of £25.

By early February 1888, it had also been decided to build a Caretaker's Lodge at St. Fintan's. On 28th February 1888 there was a meeting of the Guardians and Ratepayers of the Howth electoral division held at the graveyard. The plan for the proposed enlargement and improvement of the graveyard was voted on and passed. Mr Morris, the Clerk of Works for the Union was directed to prepare plans, sections and elevations with detailed specifications and estimates for the enlarging, fencing and building of the Caretaker's Lodge at St. Fintan's.

The land acquired for what we now call the 1889 extension is essentially two triangular areas to the east and west of the church. The area adjacent to the Caretaker's Lodge contained the 'poor' section. The area of land on the opposite side of the site was referred to as the 'new' section or Section II. The area around the original site of the church was designated the 'old' section or Section I.

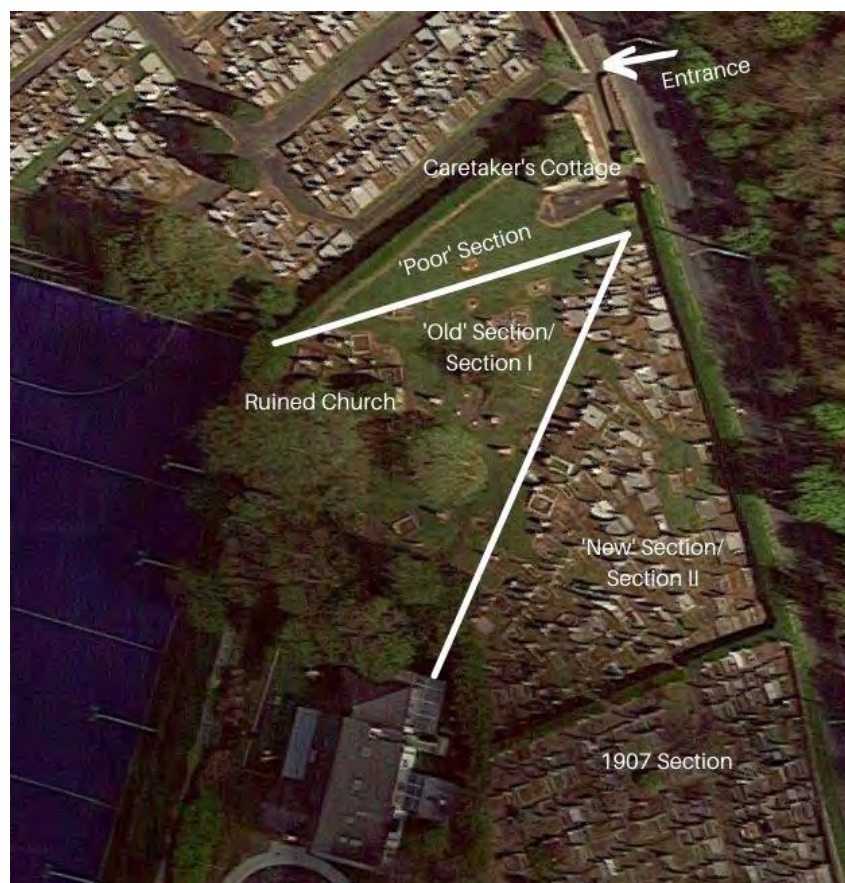


FIGURE 12: Diagram of the various areas including the old section, the 1889 extension and 1907 section.

In 1898, the Local Government Act introduced three new bodies to replace the Poor Law Unions – County Councils, Rural District Councils and Urban District Councils. And it was the District Councils who were now responsible for matters of public health, including burial grounds. As such, St. Fintan's was transferred into the care of the North Dublin Rural District Council.

The cemetery was quickly expanded again in 1907 to the south of the site. This area was divided into Catholic and Protestant sections. A report done in 1939 by the Howth Town Clerk notes that the graves in the Protestant section had been worked out incorrectly and where there should have been space for 5 or 6 graves there was only space for one. They had apparently worked it out strictly mathematically and forgot to include measurements for kerbs, borders and paths.

In 1918, Howth left the North Dublin Rural District Council and instead became a separate urban district with the foundation of the Howth Urban District Council (HUDC). The HUDC now had oversight of St Fintan's, Kilbarrack and Howth Abbey burial grounds. All three had a caretaker, were open to burials and apparently in good condition. Only Kilbarrack and St Fintan's had a register – it was noted that Howth Abbey was where the old residents of Howth were buried but they would dig the graves themselves, and the Council knew of no records having ever been kept.

However, no major changes to St Fintan's took place during this period and the archives of the HUDC mainly show many letters of complaint about how the cemetery is wildly overgrown and a disgrace. The Council themselves describe it as "a perennial source of trouble" noting that it has cost more in expenditure than they have made in income for a number of years.

In 1932, a letter was sent to the HUDC from the Guinness Mahon bank on behalf of the Howth Estate Company suggesting that that with the "considerable increase in the number of residents in Howth" the Council might like to secure additional land for burials between the cemetery and St Fintan's well – that is to continue expansion up the hill. They also note that if the Council do secure the land, that Mr St Lawrence might wish to reserve a private burial ground for his family on a portion of this land. Of course, this never went ahead. St Fintan's remained under the care of the HUDC until they were dissolved in 1942, and it was transferred to Dublin Corporation.

The next big change in St Fintan's occurred in February 1954, when a two acre extension, with room for an estimated 1,400 graves was opened. It also had separate protestant and catholic sections. The minutes of Dublin Corporation contain no references to this extension.

In 1966, Dublin Corporation made a Compulsory Purchase Order for lands further down the hill from the existing cemetery which they had deemed suitable for a further extension. However, this extension was quite significantly delayed as a large number of objections were lodged prior to the project ultimately proceeding.

The most recent change for St Fintan's was that on 4th September 1996, ownership passed to Fingal County Council who had taken administrative control of Howth upon the breakup of Dublin County Council on 1st January 1994.

3.6 CONDITION ASSESSMENT AND PHASING

3.6.1 St Fintan's Church (DU015-031002)

St Fintan's Church is roughly rectangular in plan with internal dimensions of c. 5m in length by 2.45m in width. The church is currently in a general state of good repair. The walls have been consolidated in the recent past with new wall tops added, likely at the same time the iron roof grill was inserted. The Archaeological Survey of Ireland description of the site from 1993 provides a good starting point for discussing the site.

Known as St Fintan's. Built of large blocks of sandstone, granite and tufa with dressed quoins. The walls are battered. It appears to be an Early-Norman church with later medieval alterations. Originally entered in the west through a lintelled doorway, which was replaced by a pointed arched doorway. This has chamfered jambs. A square recess above the doorway has a circular ope. There is a single bellcote on the west gable.

In the interior there are three wall presses, that in the east end of the north wall incorporates the arch of an earlier window. The wall niche in the south is angular in plan with deeply chamfered side stones and a carved head; the third wall press is a square-headed niche in the west end of the south wall. The east window is rounded with septfoil moulding on the arch and chamfered sandstone and limestone jambs. Now blocked up. Partial remains of a window are present at the western end of the north wall. The window in the northeast angle is semi-circular headed whilst that in the south is overgrown.

Metal railings have been added to roof and door. The Bellingham graveplot, also defined by railings is attached externally to the church on the north facade. Much of the mortar has been washed out of the exterior of the south, north and east walls.³⁷

The above description of the church is the most detailed since that of Cochrane in 1893, and, incidentally, it was penned exactly 100 years later. Unfortunately, the term 'Early Norman' that was applied to the church 100 years ago, has persisted into modern descriptions, despite its confusing connotations. 'Early Norman' is a designation that would be understood, in an English context, as early Romanesque architecture of the 11th and early 12th centuries and is not a term that is used in the discussion of architectural styles in Ireland. What is intended in this instance by 'Early Norman' is presumably that the church may date to the early years of the Anglo-Norman administration in Ireland, say c. 1175-1250. The rationale for a dating within this timeframe, however, is not clearly set out in any of the writings on the church to date beyond Barry's assertion that 'the western doorway and fragments of sandstone window tracery' indicate a 12th century date. The presence of a western doorway is consistent with an early date, however the sandstone window fragments are more in line with 13th or even 14th century parallels from nearby sites such as St John's, Clontarf³⁸, St Canice's in Finglas³⁹ and from

³⁷ Archaeological Survey of Ireland, in Sites and Monuments Record file.

³⁸ Paul Duffy, 2023. *St Canice's Church, Finglas – a report on the origin, style and phasing of the carved stone*. Unpublished report prepared for Dublin City Council and 7L Architects.

³⁹ Paul Duffy, 2024. *St John's Church, Clontarf – a report on the architectural fragments and phasing of the church*. Unpublished report prepared for Dublin City Council and 7L Architects.

many ecclesiastical foundation in Dublin City.⁴⁰ The presence of Dundry stone at St Fintan's would have been more suggestive of a late 12th/early 13th century date but this imported stone type is largely absent. The jambs and base of the northeastern window are likely to be weathered Dundry stone, though petrological analysis would be required to confirm this.

The identification in the ASI description of different stone types within the random coursed rubble is important. The varied geological heritage of the Howth Peninsula makes identification of the stone types in the walls difficult. In the main, however, the fabric of the church is predominantly of local brownish Dolomite from nearby Sutton beach, creamy brown quartzite or 'Howth Stone' which has frequent quartz seams within it. Limestone is present, generally in long slabs within the principal fabric, though not in great amounts, excepting the rebuilt late 20th century wall tops that are evidently composed of imported calp limestone derived from elsewhere in Dublin. This composition gives St Fintan's a much different character than the vast majority of medieval churches in Dublin north of the Liffey which are generally all built of locally sourced calp limestone.

Ian Sanders notes that Dolomite was being quarried commercially in small quantities from a quarry near to the shore into the 20th century,⁴¹ while Sameul Lewis, writing in 1837 describes a 'blue limestone which bears a fine polish' being quarried here and sent by boat to Wicklow and Arklow. This tallies well with the presence of two quarries on the 1837 Ordnance Survey maps, 400m to the west of St Fintan's Church alongside a lime works and a manganese works. It is very likely that the stone used in St Fintan's was quarried nearby.

The presence of tufa throughout the building is of consequence as this is the only stone present that cannot be obtained locally. Some of the dark coloured porous stone present at St Fintan's may not be tufa, but rather piddock-bored limestone. The presence of similarly porous dark stone at St Mary's church on the other side of the Howth peninsula may suggest a local source for this material. The closest source for tufa, however, would have been coastal Malahide, though it is more abundant near Drumanagh and Balbriggan.⁴² Niall Roycroft has discussed the benefits of tufa and its use in medieval churches along coastal Fingal.⁴³ Roycroft describes how tufa appears in a number of church sites where it forms window elements or window reveals where the finish was intended to be rendered with plaster. However, there is a clear correlation with the use of tufa and the appearance of vaulted structures in Fingal in the 11th century. 'Calcareous tufa' was used extensively at St Patrick's Church on Church Island off Skerries to construct a vaulted chancel and, while the majority has been robbed out in the 20th century, one fragment with a 'deep rebate' thought to derive from the chancel arch was noted onsite in

⁴⁰ Paul Duffy and Sara Pavia, 2021. *Quarrying the Past: Petrographic analysis of Dublin's medieval building stone*. Unpublished report prepared for the Royal Irish Academy; Structures of import

⁴¹ Ian Sanders, Geology of Dublin fieldguide 4: Sutton https://geoschol.com/more/3_howth.pdf

⁴² Matthew Parkes 2012 *Islands, Coasts and Quarries: the geological heritage of Fingal* (Fingal County Council, Swords), p.29.

⁴³ Niall Roycroft, 2020. 'Tufa stone in medieval Fingal and beyond', *Time and Tide: Skerries historical society* 12 pp. 137-151.

2005.⁴⁴ It is likely that tufa was also used in the vaulting of the chancel at Cill Mac Nesson on Ireland's Eye. The most extensive use of tufa in Fingal is within the upper vault over the chancel of St Doulagh's Church some 7km to the northwest of St Fintan's.

Tufa was used in a small group of remarkable 'double vaulted' churches that were constructed in Ireland in the 11th and 12th centuries which includes St Doulagh's and the most famous example of which is Cormac's Chapel on the Rock of Cashel.⁴⁵ Leask describes how the tufa was used to form the steeply pitched upper arch, resting on a barrel vault below and was then clad with an outer facing of thin slabs.⁴⁶ He describes how the tufa arch is created where 'the bed-joints of its stones are not horizontal but have an angle with the horizon smaller than those of a true arch.' This arrangement is illustrated in Figure 13 below.

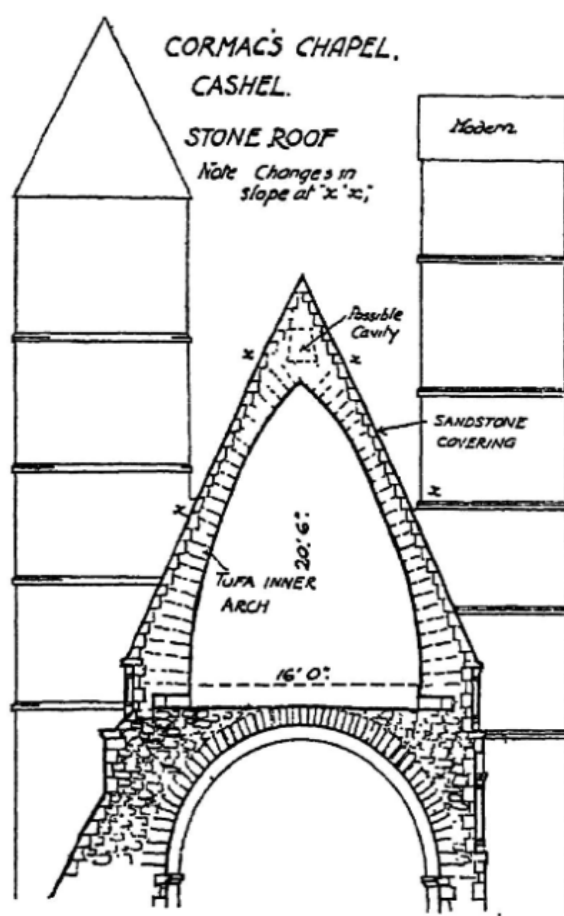


FIGURE 13: Cross section through Cormac's Chapel (after Leask, 1955)⁴⁷

Angled voussoirs of this type would seem to be present in several of the wedge-shaped tufa stones present within the walls of St Fintan's Church (see Plates 6a-6f). In addition, the large tufa block that forms the lowest visible quoin in the southeast corner, has an angle carved into

⁴⁴ Michael Ryan, Kevin Mooney, Frank Prendergast and Barry Masterson, 2004. 'Church Island: a description' in Ailbhe MacShamhráin (ed.) *The Island of St Patrick: Church and ruling dynasties in Fingal and Meath, 400-1148*. (Four Courts Press, Dublin), pp. 106-124, at p. 113.

⁴⁵ For discussion, see Thomas Ó Carragáin, 2011, *Churches in Early Medieval Ireland: Architecture, Ritual and Memory*, (Yale University Press), pp. 255-91.

⁴⁶ Harold Leask 1955. *Irish Churches and Monastic Buildings Volume 1*. (Dundalgan Press, Dundalk), p. 38.

⁴⁷ *ibid*

it and this might be an example of how the outer cladding sat into the inner tufa voussoirs (Plate 6f). While Cormac's Chapel is on an impressive scale, the majority of the other double vaulted churches are more comparable to St Fintan's in size, with St Mochta's House in Co. Louth providing the closest parallel (Figure 14). Entrance into the upper loft above the barrel vault was, at St Mochta's via an intramural stair. The width of the walls at St Fintan's would not allow for such an arrangement, however, the more common access for these lofts was via a wooden ladder as at St Kevin's Church, Glendalough or St Flannan's Oratory, Killaloe.



PLATES 6A-F: Clockwise from top left, wedge-shaped tufa blocks in a) eastern gable; b) eastern window infill; c) bellcote; d) northern wall; e) western gable and f) notched/rebated southeastern quoin

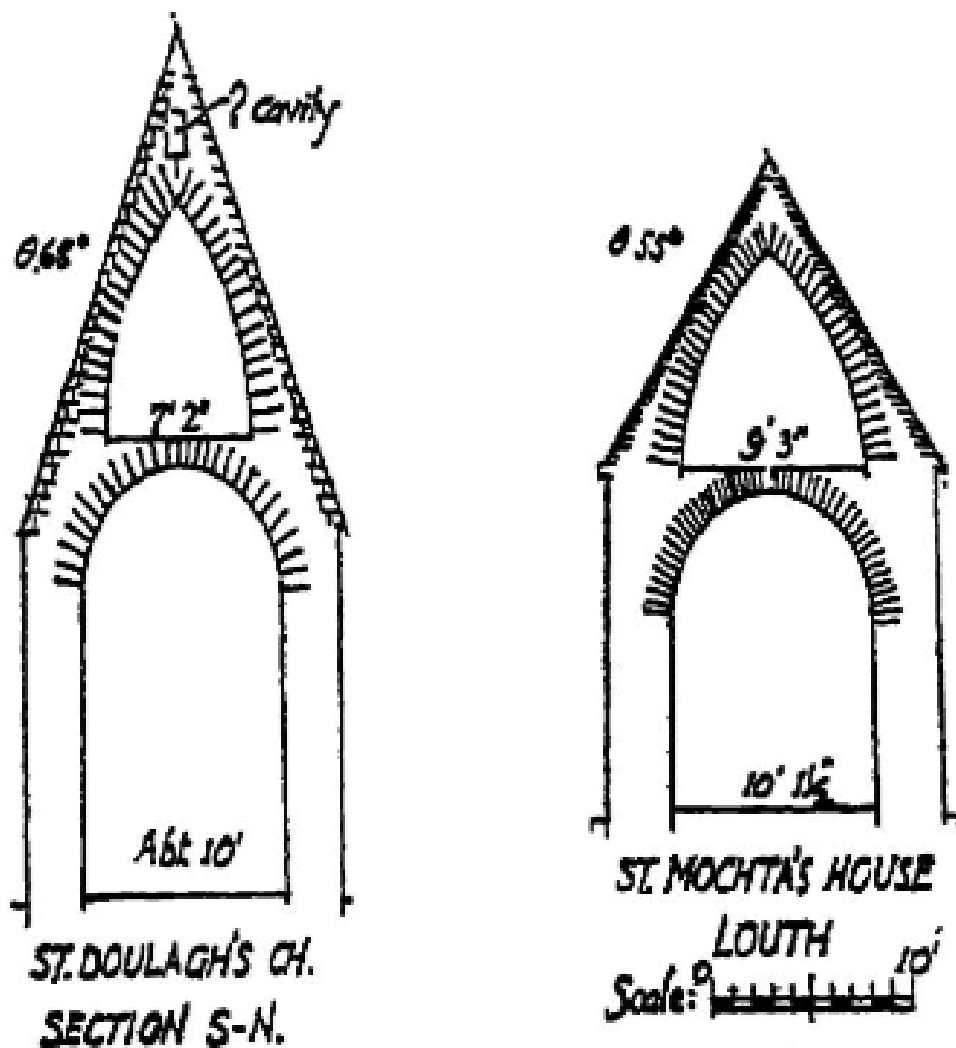


FIGURE 14: Comparative cross section of St Doulagh's Church and St Mochta's House

Accepting, for the purpose of this study, that the large, shaped tufa blocks within the fabric of the church derive from an original roof vault, then the charting of their positions can inform a phasing of the building fabric. Throughout the church, the tufa is almost exclusively situated in the upper half of the coursing. Some exceptions, such as the lowest quoin in the southeastern angle suggest a complete rebuild of the structure in places.

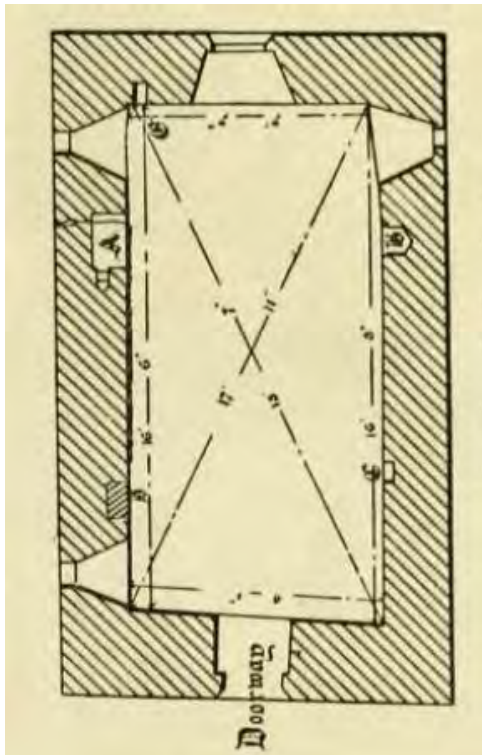


FIGURE 15: Plan of St Fintan's Church⁴⁸

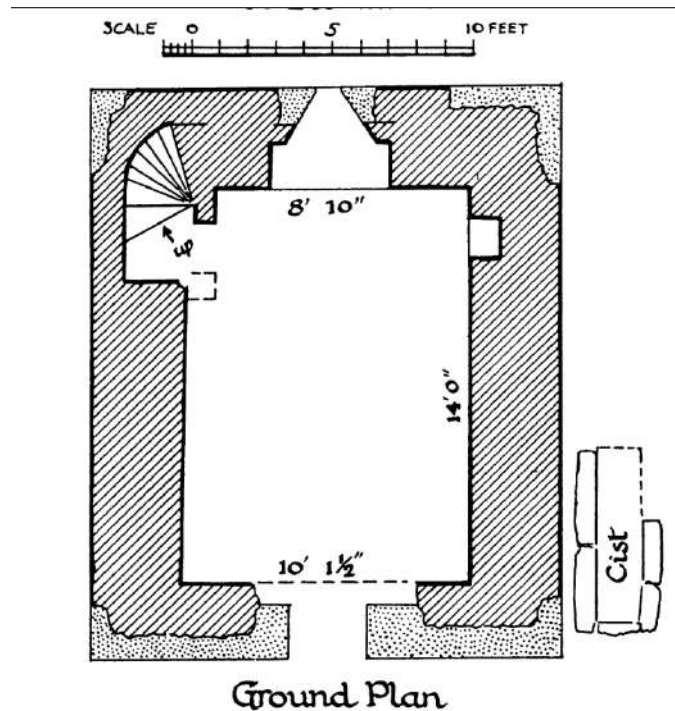


FIGURE 16: Plan of St Mochta's House⁴⁹

The date of this rebuild is difficult to arrive at, however, a study of the stonework in the opes and internal 'presses' and niches can assist with the phasing.

Doorway

The ASI description of the doorway identifies a large flat lintel, centrally placed over the current archway, as an original flat-headed western doorway. Such flat-headed western doorways are indicative of an 11th century date and they do survive in the wider region in medieval churches where they have usually been blocked and replaced by doorways entering the nave from the side walls. However, at St Fintan's, the level of the lintel is 2m above the ground level. This is considerably higher than is usual for such portals, in addition, the interior of the portal is formed by a neat segmental arch of small, dressed limestone voussoirs which is inconsistent with a flat-headed lintel (Plates 7 and 8).

The doorway arch is comprised of two voussoirs with internal and external chamfer, which form the southern side of the arch and which land on a similarly chamfered jamb. All three stones are of a blueish stone that may be the local limestone described by Lewis in 1837. The remainder of the southern jambs are plain, squared off local stone. The northern half of the arch is depicted in Du Noyer's 1847 sketch as absent. The current voussoirs are of granite and red sandstone and have been inserted into the arch sometime after 1847. The arch lands on a large yellow-grey sandstone jambe that looks out of proportion with the doorway. This jamb is

⁴⁸ Cochrane, 1893.

⁴⁹ H. G. Leask St Mochta's House, *Louth Journal of the County Louth Archaeological Society*, Vol. 9, No. 1 (1937), pp. 32-35, at p.33

chamfered but the scale is different to that of the other stones. It has a hole bored into it to accept a drawbar, but this does not line up with the current iron gate, further suggesting this stone was not original to the doorway. However, the jamb bears evidence of multiple striations (Plate 9) that are often a feature of church doorways, resulting from the sharpening of blades or the grating of stone dust for the purposes of apotropaic magic.⁵⁰ Very few church portals illustrate this phenomenon as well as the sandstone arch at St Mary's on the north side of the Howth peninsula. The lower jamb on the northern side is of the same type of sandstone and is of similar scale to that with the drawbar. This sandstone is of a type not local to the area, but which can be found in the chapel beside Howth Castle whose robbed out eastern window is of this material. The scale of both jambs may indicate that they derive from the Howth Castle chapel.



PLATE 7: Interior of doorway, facing west



PLATE 8: Exterior of doorway, facing east

⁵⁰ Paul Duffy, 2020. Point Duty – Evidence for a gatehouse at the Abbey of St Thomas the Martyr, Dublin? *IAI Autumn newsletter*, **18**:2.



PLATE 9: Inner edge of doorway arch facing north

Two rounded sandstone window heads are evident in the church. The first forms the head of the window in the eastern side of the northern wall. This window is composed of two jambs and a base of weathered, grainy, light coloured stone that might be Dundry Stone.⁵¹ All of the potential Dundry stones are chamfered on the inside to create a splayed reveal. The southern jamb, as noted by Cochrane in 1893, has been damaged by the expansion of a corroded iron bar formerly inserted into the window. While this window, on first inspection, appears to have the highest potential for being in its original position, however, the mismatch between the stone type of the head and the rest of the window is further evidenced when viewed from the interior where the head is seen to be distinct from the jambs and base (Plates 10 and 11). A second window head is placed within a niche or 'press' constructed in the interior of the northern wall. Clearly ex-situ, this fragment has been placed in an unusual and esoteric position, forming a cavity which is finished with a fragment of hemispherical stone (discussed further below; Plates 12 and 13).

⁵¹ Dundry Stone is an oolitic limestone commonly imported into Ireland from the Dundry quarry outside of Bristol from the late 12th to late 12th century. Petrographic analysis would be required to confirm this. For discussion, see Duffy and Pavia, 2021, *Quarrying the Past*.



PLATE 10: Exterior of northeast window



PLATE 11: Exterior of northeast window

The possible Dundry Stone window is likely to have originally been capped with a lancet-type head. A similar Dundry stone lancet window can be seen at nearby Kilbarrack Church in a similar position in the north of the chancel, however, in this example, the chamfer is external and glazing grooves are evident. The stones at St Fintan's may therefore have been reversed in order to present an unchamfered face to the exterior, therefore accommodating the sandstone head.

The window heads of sandstone are likely to be original to the church and while this round-headed form is common to churches of the late 11th to 15th centuries, the type of sandstone they are made of appears commonly in Dublin during the 14th to 16th centuries.⁵²



PLATE 12: Round headed window head in northern wall 'press'



PLATE 13: Hemispherical stone fragment behind window head

⁵² Paul Duffy, 2022. 'Structures of import: St Peter's church, a unique sunken-floor structure and Dublin's southern suburb' In: Seán Duffy (ed.) *Medieval Dublin 19* (Four Courts Press. Dublin) p. 53-104.

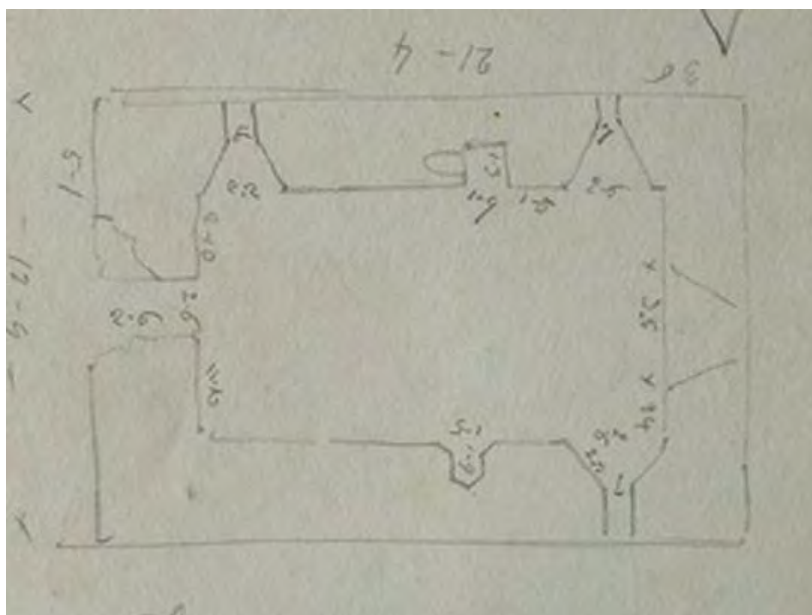


FIGURE 17: Du Noyer's sketch plan of St Fenton's 'Mortuary Chapel', 1840s⁵³



PLATE 14: Dundry Stone lancet headed window in north wall of chancel, Kilbarrack Church

Given that they are of the same type of sandstone, the fragment forming the head of a niche in the southern wall (Plate 15) is likely to have originally formed the base of a window that was capped with one of the round window heads discussed above.

⁵³ https://www.europeana.eu/en/item/2058619/object_DP_7920270

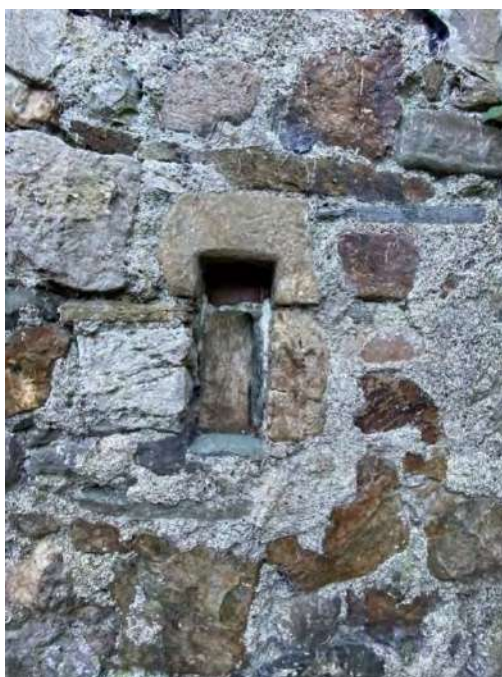


PLATE 15: Sandstone window base used as a head for press/niche in southern wall

The east window, as many previous writers have commented, appears to be overly large for the size of the church. The window head, formed of two voussoirs meeting at the apex and has been described in the ASI as being 'septfoil', in other words that there are seven foils, or leaves described by the projecting cusps of the stonework. The two voussoirs sit awkwardly on the jamb stones, though this may be due to the fact that the southern jamb does not sit correctly on the base. The entire window does appear to be of the same style and carved from the same type of pale/rust coloured sandstone as the two round window heads discussed above. Du Noyer's watercolour of 1847 shows the window in a much more cohesive way with the stones well fitted together and a continuous, aligned glazing groove running around the interior. The septfoil motif is rare in medieval windows and is more reminiscent of arcading of a type seen at cloisters such as Holy Cross Abbey, or the arcading from Cook St, Dublin, now housed in the Chapter House of St Mary's Abbey, Dublin. This type of arcading is of 15th century date and it is likely that this window, along with the other sandstone window elements are evidence of a phase of remodelling on the site during this period. The apparently incongruous size of the eastern window relative to the gable is, in fact typical of the type of remodelling in churches from the 14th century onwards where previous lancet window arrangements in the eastern gables were often replaced by vast windows with complicated bar tracery.

The window in the southeast of the church has little light to shed on the building. Outside, the jambs have been entirely replaced during the 20th century refurbishment of the wall tops while the interior splay and surrounds contain no cut stone. One final wall press to the west of this window is formed partially of the blue limestone seen in the doorway and some of the chamfered fragments may derive from the original doorway surround. Given its location, the press contains no sign of a piscina and this adds to the overall sense that these wall presses/niches have been constructed out of fancy with a random supply of cut stone, rather than to perform any liturgical function. The southern jambe of the press is formed by a

chamfered red sandstone fragment. This type of stone is not local to the area, though is widespread in Fingal, and is likely to derive from medieval trade with the Chester area.⁵⁴ This type of sandstone is used in a polychrome arrangement in the 15th century gatehouse at Howth Castle.



PLATE 16: Southeastern wall press

The northwest window close to the western gable is a very haphazard construction, again with little of value to the understanding of the building. The window head is formed with a fragment of a chamfered red sandstone jamb of a similar type to that discussed in the wall press above.

Circular Ope

The most intriguing, and perhaps most revealing ope in the building is the circular aperture that sits above the doorway and below the bellcote. Cochrane describes this in great detail and provides an excellent sketch, picking out detail that is helpful in identifying the circular stone that is inserted into the square aperture. The stone is formed of the rim of a medieval stone mortar of a type commonly found in Ireland. The mortar would have had four lugs, one of which has a channel carved into it. Mortars were a ubiquitous household item during the medieval period and into the 17th century. The St Fintan's example finds close parallel in size and morphology with several Purbeck marble mortars recovered from a 13th century shipwreck off the Dorset Coast. The mason responsible for the reconstruction of the church evidently found a broken mortar in or near the church and chased the inner face, removing the rim for installation into the square aperture over the door. It is possible that the hemispherical stone within the cavity in the northern wall niche formed part of the base of this mortar, though the diameters do not match well. It is therefore more likely that the hemispherical stone in the

⁵⁴ Duffy 2024, *St John's Church*.

niche derives from a second mortar, re-used in the church fabric. The fanciful and opportunistic use of this stone within the aperture with no obvious attempt at glazing or otherwise covering such a large opening strongly suggests that, at this point in time, the building was being stabilised and decorated for an aesthetic rather than functional purpose.

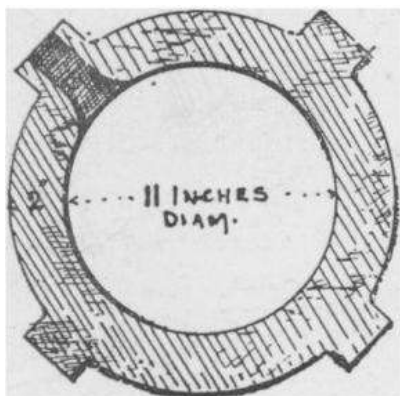


FIGURE 18: Cochrane's sketch of the circular stone



PLATE 17: 13th century purbeck marble mortar



PLATE 18: Circular stone in-situ



PLATE 19: Photogrammetry of the Dorset wreck showing Purbeck marble mortars on sea bed⁵⁵

What makes the presence of a large stone mortar on the site all the more intriguing is the identification of a smaller lugged white stone mortar of medieval or early modern date within the upper graveyard close to cross DU015-031004 (Plates 17-19). The presence of these implements onsite brings to mind the ubiquitous bullaun stones of early medieval monastic sites.

From the medieval period onward, mortars for the pounding and grinding of food and medicines were important household tools across Europe.⁵⁶ Mortars and pestles are frequently referenced in recipes and laboratory descriptions of 18th century England, suggesting that they were fundamental utensils in both the home and for chemists in this

⁵⁵ Cousins T., 2024. *The Mortar Wreck: a mid-thirteenth-century ship, wrecked off Studland Bay, Dorset, carrying a cargo of Purbeck stone Antiquity*, **98**: 400, pp. 991 – 1005.

⁵⁶ Jervis, B. 2022. Mortars, Medicine and Knowledge in Medieval England. *Revue d'Histoire Nordique* 29, 43-67, at 3-4.

period.⁵⁷ The material of which the mortar was made was a factor in its use as well; a 17th century treatise for physicians and apothecaries notes that ‘pearls and corall ought to be beaten in a mortar of white marble’, and 18th century recipes often specified the materials of both mortar and pestle to be used.⁵⁸



PLATE 20: Lugged mortar of white stone in upper graveyard

Bellcote

The bellcote itself provides the final proof that the structure as it stands has been reassembled as a picturesque ruin as opposed to a functional building with a religious purpose. The bellcote itself is well constructed of dressed/squared stone. The lithologies in evidence present a continuation with the fabric of the church itself with quartzite, possible dolomite, limestone and tufa in evidence, however there is no evidence for fittings that might have once held a bell in place. Neither are there any apertures for allowing the cords for the ringing of the bells to pass through and into the church. There are no roof scars or signs of fittings that could have carried a roof apex that would have projected upwards on the internal face of the bellcote. It must be concluded that, as with the church as it stands, was largely rebuilt as a decorative feature in the 18th or 19th century. Whether the church was roofed at this stage is uncertain, particularly given the complete rebuilding of the wall tops, however no building scars are evident and the pitch of the roof that would have been required to sit atop the gables as they currently stand, would have been implausibly low. The structure was, however plastered internally and remnants of harling on the western gable indicate that it was similarly rendered on the exterior.

⁵⁷ Havard, L. 2022. ‘Almost to Candy Height: Knowledge-Making in the Early Modern Kitchen, 1700 – 1850’, *Cultural and Social History* **19**:2, 119-139, at 122.

⁵⁸ Havard 2022, ‘Almost to Candy Height’, p. 122.

Phasing

Based on the evidence presented above, a high level and tentative phasing for St Fintan's Church can be suggested:

- **Phase 1: c.1100** – The presence of shaped blocks of tufa within the fabric of the church are suggestive of an earlier vaulted structure, or, at the very least, an earlier church with windows/door framed in tufa arches. The general dating of Fingal churches with tufa elements would place such a structure in the years around AD 1100. The lower courses of the church walls may date from this period.
- **Phase 2: c.1190-1300** – The presence of two Dundry stone jambs and window base in the northeastern window is suggestive of a phase of remodelling in the years between 1190 and 1300. No other indications of this phase survive.
- **Phase 3: c. 1400**– A substantial rebuilding of the church was undertaken during this period. Two surviving putlog holes in the eastern gable and a third visible in the historic photography attest to this rebuild. The relatively large septfoil moulded window head dates to this period and it is likely that the two round window heads also date to this phase given the similarity of the sandstone material. One putlog hole survives in the western gable above the doorway suggesting that the pointed arch opening dates to this period also. The absence of putlog holes in the upper portions of the western gable and in the northern and southern walls indicate that these are later.
- **Phase 4: 18th/19th century** – a remodelling of the church was undertaken in either the 18th or early 19th century. While a depiction of the church on John Taylor's 1816 map would appear to show the building in an earlier phase, the fact that the building appears in its current form with weathered and damaged elements in Du Noyer's representations in the 1840s would suggest that this remodelling was carried out a considerable time before his sketches were made. It is therefore considered likely that the church was remodelled with the reconstruction of the upper parts of the west gable, addition of bellcote, the construction of the upper half of both side walls, including the reconstruction of all side window opes and internal niches/wall presses was undertaken in the later 18th or very early 19th century. No record survives of mass being celebrated in this church and it is tempting to see this remodelling as an effort, perhaps by the owners of Sutton House, to prettify what was to be their final resting place by the creation of a picturesque ruin that was never intended for liturgical function. The absence of any evidence of roofing supports or a roof ridgeline on the internal face of the bellcote are in favour of this reading of the building. The survival of internal render however challenges this interpretation somewhat. On the balance of evidence however, it is proposed that the church was not roofed at this time.
- **Phase 5: c. 1850** – sometime between the Du Noyer sketches in the 1840s and the painting by McFarland in 1853, the damaged western doorway was partially rebuilt with salvaged jambes and voussoirs of sandstone and granite.
- **Phase 6: c. 1980** – Rebuilding in calp limestone and cement mortar of the wall tops along the north and south walls, the installation of the iron grille and the flaunching of the wall tops.



FIGURE 19: Rectified photographic model of western façade with phasing



FIGURE 20: Rectified photographic model of southern wall with phasing



FIGURE 21: Rectified photographic model of eastern gable with phasing and putlog holes highlighted

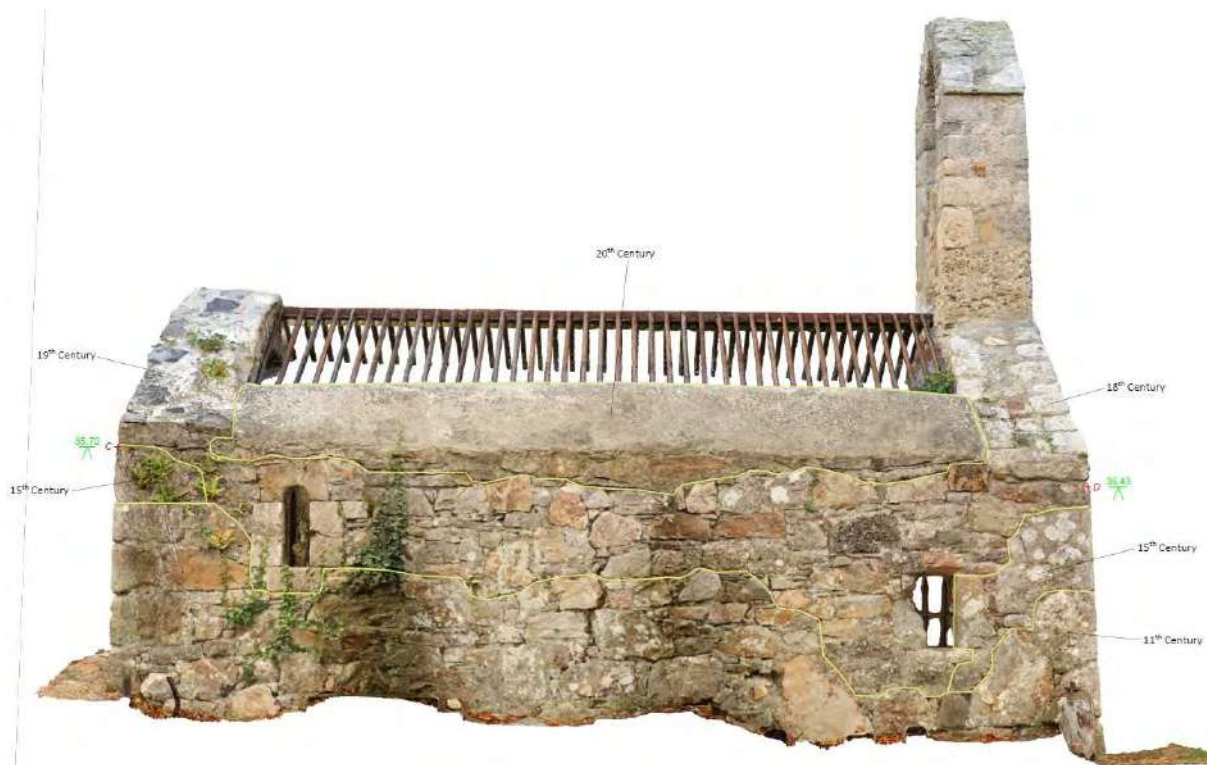


FIGURE 22: Rectified photographic model of northern wall with phasing

3.6.2 The Graveyard (DU015-031003)

The portion of the graveyard defined as a Recorded Monument is described as follows: *a roughly square area enclosed by the townland boundary on all sides except the W where there is a curve in the boundary indicating the former existence of an early ecclesiastical enclosure* (SMR file for DU015-031003).

In 2008, the graveyard was described as follows by the Fingal Historic Graves Project:⁵⁹

Graveyard much enlarged in four main phases, perhaps twenty times its size ca.1840. Numerous historic individuals interred. Churchyard now opened to south (uphill), but relatively low density close to the surviving church ruin. Grass kept mown and herbicide in use to edges. Managing for biodiversity to be encouraged. Headstones found in collapsed states, and kerbed graveplots in disarray, normally due to ground displacement.

⁵⁹ 2008, p.18



PLATE 21: Central portion of the graveyard, facing north with twin sycamore trees in middle ground

The graveyard is stepped in profile due to the scarping of an area of the hillside to create the early ecclesiastical enclosure discussed above. The lower part of the graveyard is dominated by St Fintan's Church and a cluster of ornate monuments immediately west of the church, the northwest corner of the graveyard. These monuments include the Bellingham enclosure, the Jackson pedestal monument, a large chest tomb, the ledger tomb of Margaret McNair Stokes and a pair of coped tombs with Neo Gothic motifs. A 19th century graveslab surmounted by a ring-headed cross has toppled and lies broken immediately south of the church.

To the east and south of the church, several large slabs of undressed and unmarked stone stand as gravemarkers around the central area of the enclosure. These rough markers are very difficult to date, though several are composed of tufa (Plates 22-23). They are reminiscent of early medieval markers such as those at Reefert Church in Glendalough. Interestingly, these gravemarkers do not share the same alignment as the church. They are generally aligned northwest-southeast and, if these are early medieval gravemarkers, they may indicate the former presence of a principal church that was built on a different alignment.

On the higher ground above the escarpment to the south and southeast, 19th and early 20th century monuments are densely packed and set out in rows that generally align with the later eastern and southern graveyard walls. The apparent reluctance to allow this level of concentration of graves to progress down the slope and around the church could be due to the presence of an earlier burial ground within this area, avoided due to the prevalence of human remains that could have been encountered by gravediggers here.



PLATE 22: Tufa gravemarker in foreground, and background



PLATE 23: Unadorned gravemarker to east of church

The graveyard is well maintained, however parched areas around the graveslabs within the enclosure would suggest regular use of biocide. A large semi-circular area along a break of slope to the east of the church appears to have been aggressively treated with biocide also. No modern cleaning of headstones was identified with lichen growth in place on many of the stones.



PLATE 24: View southwest along the break of slope showing biocide treatment

3.6.3 Ecclesiastical Enclosure (DU015-031001)

The bank surrounding the church is mentioned from the earliest references to the church. The bank curves around the western side of the graveyard and stands to a maximum height of approximately 1.4m and is 6m wide. The curve of this boundary is continued to the northwest by the line of the random rubble coursed wall. The northern boundary of the graveyard has been straightened; however, a low remnant of the northern ditch is clearly visible in the Digital Elevation Model (Figure 23) curving around the top of the graveyard. The northeast and eastern boundary of the original ecclesiastical enclosure This area of the graveyard is overgrown with trees, brambles and tall stands of nettles. The southern boundary of the enclosure has been formed by scarping the slope and digging into the hillside. This escarpment runs in a curving line from the east to southwest. The three sides of the enclosure, with various degrees of curves create a distinct ‘plectrum-shaped’ enclosure with the suggestion of an entrance on the eastern side.

The curving trend to the northeast of the enclosure identified by the geophysical survey, if archaeological, could suggest that there was once an outer enclosure at St Fintan’s. No evidence for a second enclosing element was found during testing in 1996 to the west of the enclosure (see Figure 24), however, the testing was not best positioned to be conclusive on this point. The testing did not identify any external ditch but this may be due, again, to the position of the trenches which were at the southwest of the enclosure where the bank is formed by scarping the hill as opposed to creating a bank as is the case in the west and north of the site. A 0.2m deep layer of silty clay containing abundant cockle shell and some charcoal was found to extend westwards from the bank (Meenan 1996). While the author did not speculate on the date of this layer, it may, given the absence of modern material, represent evidence for medieval occupation at the site.

The graveyard boundary wall to the northwest and north of the historic graveyard was examined in full to identify any potentially historic fabric or reused architectural fragments. Nothing of this nature was identified and the wall is composed entirely of local rock, ‘Howth Stone’ in the main.



PLATE 25: Outer face of bank facing east the west



PLATE 26: View along escarpment towards inner face of bank, facing west

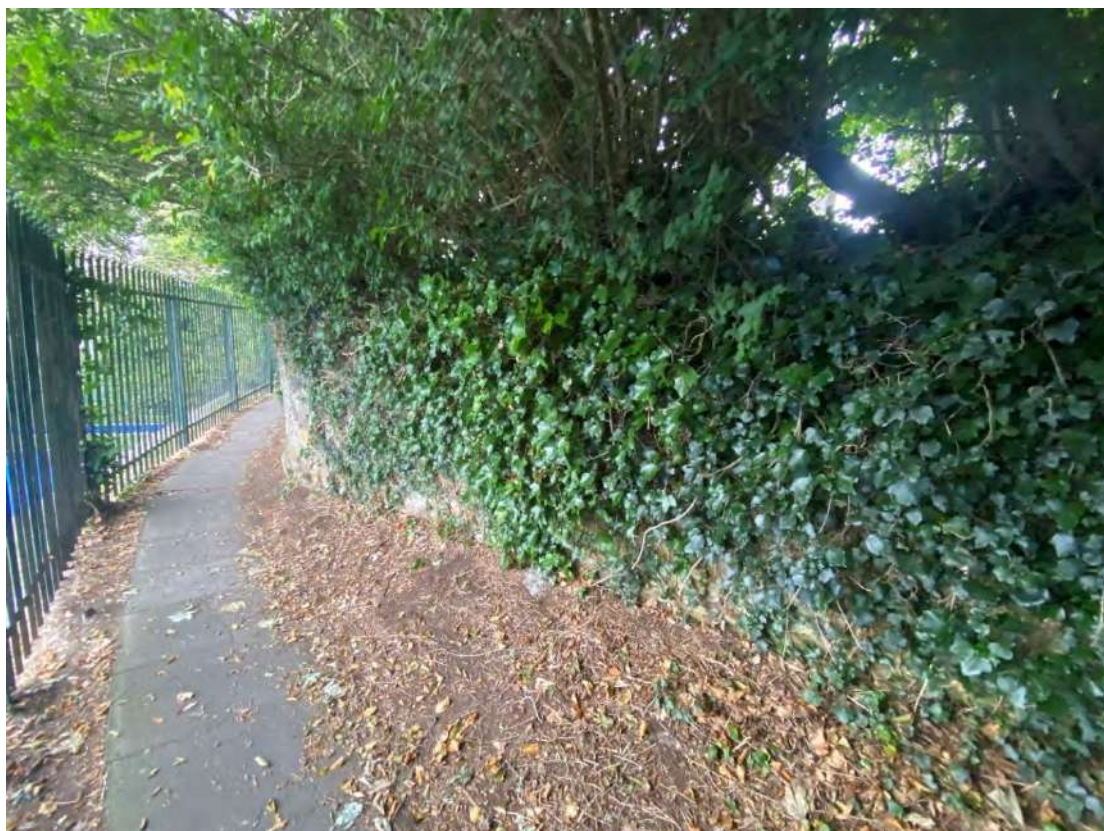


PLATE 27: Curving boundary wall at northwest of graveyard, facing east

While, initially, the denuded and overgrown nature of the bank may seem to limit its significance, when the probable construction date of this structure (c.600-800) is considered, this bank is of high significance. This is all the more the case when the surrounding environment is taken into account. While the RMP contains 15 entries described as Ecclesiastical Enclosures in Fingal and North Dublin, only two of these, Grallagh (DU007-001005) and Tobertown (DU001-003005) in the rural north of the county, include any upstanding remnants of banks. No upstanding elements of the once common and contemporary earthen-banked ringforts/raths known from across the area through aerial photography analysis, geophysical survey and excavation survive. The earthen bank at St Fintan's therefore represents a very rare survival in the increasingly developed environment of North Dublin of an upstanding early medieval monument.

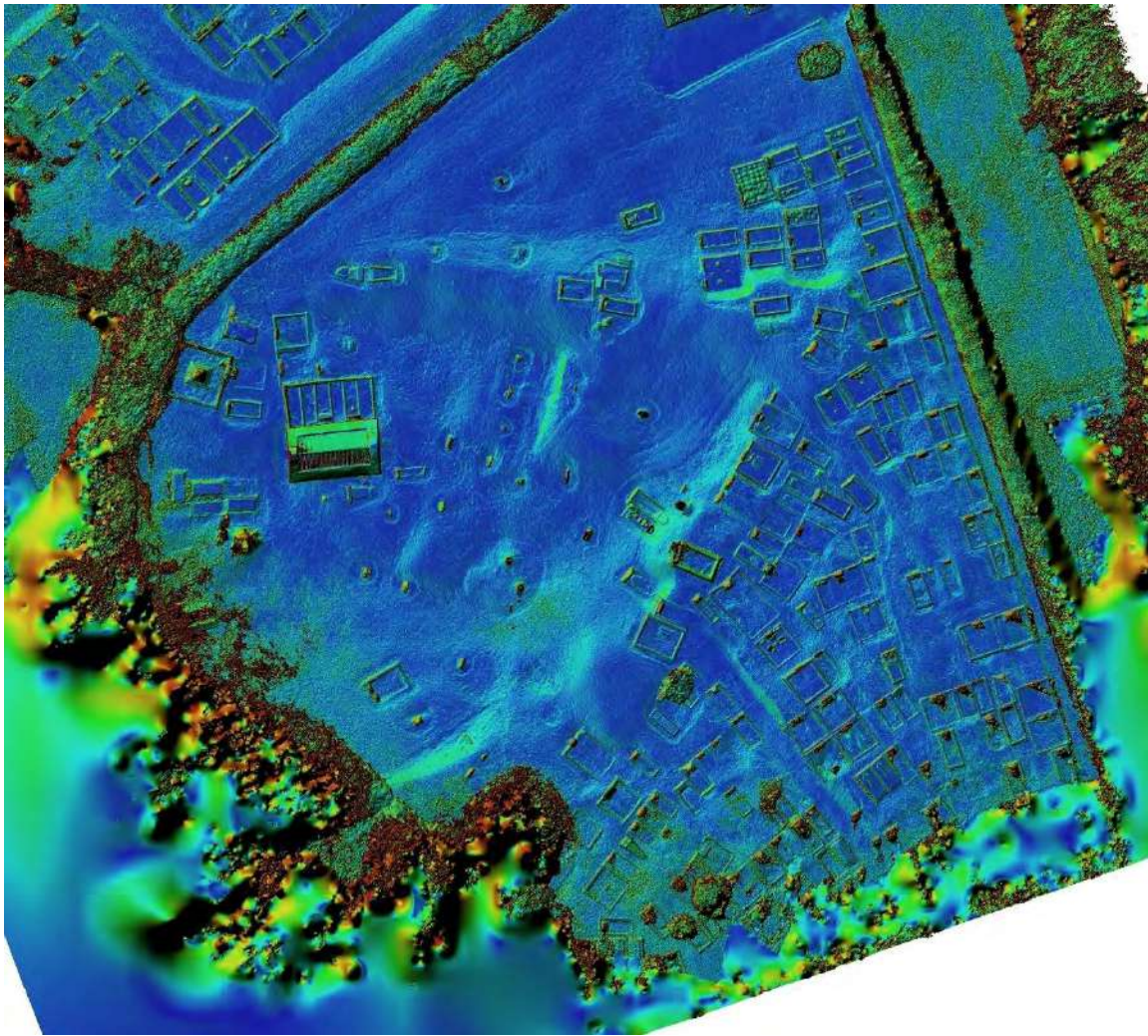


FIGURE 23: Digital terrain model of church, produced by IAC Archaeology

3.6.4 Cross (DU015-031004)

This cross is described in the RMP as a ‘plain granite cross’. The full SMR file for the cross in the upper graveyard derives in full from the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) record and reads as follows:

There is a plain granite cross with short flat arms in the second graveyard S of church (dims. H 0.60m, T 0.13m) (Cochrane 1893, 386-396). Located within southwestern addition to cemetery within a sea of crosses and headstones. In danger of being encroached by vegetation from adjoining graveplots.

There are two immediate issues with this description, firstly, the cross, on close inspection, would appear to be composed of a grey, coarse-grained sandstone. The second, and more puzzling issue, is the reference to Cochrane’s article as the source for the original identification of this cross. The cross is not mentioned in Cochrane’s 1893 article on Howth, nor does it appear in his 1896 article. The cross does not appear in any antiquarian or historical writing examined during the course of this study. However, that is not to suggest that the cross is not early in date, and the compiler of the ASI record is to be commended for noticing it in the ‘sea of crosses’ that stand throughout the upper graveyard.

That the cross has been moved from its original context and placed outside of the historic graveyard boundary as a memorial to a grave that it is not associated with, is clear. The cross currently stands at the head of a graveslab dating to the 1930s. It is not clear how exactly the cross has been fixed to the granite surrounds of the graveslab, but it is likely that a small amount of cement has been used. The 'danger' noted in the ASI record of vegetation encroaching appears to have been mitigated in recent years but this might have been achieved through the use of biocide.



PLATE 28: Cross DU015-031004 facing north

Of more concern is the possibility that the cross has been subject to aggressive cleaning. Although very difficult to tell from the black and white photographs, the 1993 images hint at a darker surface on both faces, perhaps with a line running diagonally from west to east across the face of the arms that may suggest the cross had been buried to this depth for a long period of time. It is not possible to be conclusive about this, however.



PLATE 29: North face of cross DU015-031004 in 1993, from SMR file



PLATE 30: South face of cross DU015-031004 in 1993, from SMR file

The cross is irregularly shaped and characterised by the very short arms and rough finish on both the north and south faces with gouges and grooves evident. A small remnant of pecked dressing is visible on the southern side towards the base. A notably smooth patina covers most of the terminal of the southern arm except where it has been removed by a diagonal gouge.

Several small, undecorated crosses with short arms are known from early ecclesiastical sites from across wider Leinster (Plates 33-35), however, the most pertinent and closest example The closest, and most pertinent parallel for this cross can be seen 7km to the northwest at St Doulagh's Church. This cross has comparably short arms and, as explored above, is located at a church with a double vaulted roof which employs tufa blocks in its upper arch. The short-armed cross, though relatively rare in Ireland, is common in the Rogaland area of Norway, an area that had close connection with Ireland in the 10th and 11th centuries. The short-armed cross is also a motif that has been found in amber amulets from excavations in Hiberno-Norse Dublin. This cross is therefore quite a significant due to its rarity in the Dublin regions and also potentially links the site to the wider Scandinavian world of the 10th/11th century.



PLATE 31: Northern face of cross DU015-031004



PLATE 32: western face of cross DU015-031004 with patina and pecking visible



PLATE 33: St Maerluan's
Tallaght, Co. Dublin



PLATE 34: St Munna's,
Taghmon, Co. Wexford



PLATE 35: Coughlanstown
east, Co. Kildare



PLATE 36: Granite Cross DU015-009002, St Doulagh's

3.7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE

There are six additional recorded monuments located within the study area (c. 1km), one of which, DU019-002, is St Fintan's holy well, located c. 200m to the south. The remainder constitute sites that testify to the prehistoric activity in the area. Medieval activity is represented just beyond the study area (c. 1.1km north-northeast) at the site of the medieval Howth castle-tower house (DU015-027001) and chapel (DU015-026) (Figure 1).

TABLE 2: Recorded Archaeological Sites (RMPs) within Study Area

RMP. NO.	TOWNLAND	CLASSIFICATION	DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE TO COMPLEX
DU019-002	Sutton South	Holy Well	<p>St. Fintan's Well in the parish of Howth now lies within the garden of a private residence. This is a natural spring enclosed by a rough, dry-stone built, structure. Tradition records that water from the well cures sore eyes and stomach disorders (Ó Danachair 1958, 77). It is still venerated.</p> <p>Folklore collected from Howth School recorded the following tradition about St. Fintan's Well; 'St Fintan's Well, sometimes called "The Wishing Well". This well is situated in a field belonging to Mr Davidson at Sutton side of Howth hill; it is just off the main road from Sutton to Howth Summit, and the right of way entrance to it crosses the hill tram line (G.N.R.). The corner of the field where the well is situated is fenced</p>	c. 200m south

RMP. NO.	TOWNLAND	CLASSIFICATION	DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE TO COMPLEX
			<p>off from the rest of the land. The well is supposed to have been connected with St Fintan's Church or oratory, the ruins of which are in St Fintan's cemetery on the same road and nearly opposite the entrance to the Howth Golf Club.</p> <p>The well is built of large stones, and the top is covered by blackberry bushes. A number of sycamore trees surround it; and there is a small path right round the well. The water is icy cold, even in very hot weather, and the well has never been known to dry up. The people of the surrounding district used this well constantly until quite recently. There used to be three wire arches over the well, to which were tied rags and ribbons, but only one of these arches now remains. A wooden door which covered the entrance has also disappeared. Rags and medals are still tied on the wire arch and on the bushes and fencing, and someone has placed a statue of the Sacred Heart over the well. There were never any processions or patterns held there, but people used to say "Three Hail Marys" in honour of St Fintan, drink some water, and walk round the well three times. The water was supposed to be good for all bodily ailments' (The Schools' Collection, Volume 0792, Pages 1-2)</p>	
DU015-032	Howth Demesne	Megalithic tomb-portal tomb	The tomb is situated by a pathway under tree cover at the edge of Deer Park golf course at the foot of Muck Rock on the north side of Howth Head. There is an entrance in SE to a single chamber (L 2.6m; Wth 1.1m). This is indicated by two portals (H 2.75m and 2.45m respectively). The doorstone has partially collapsed into the chamber. The large roofstone (L 5.2m; Wth 4.2m; D 1.9m) still rests on the upper edge of the portals above the collapsed chamber (Borlase 1897, 2, 376-9; Ó Nualláin 1983, 82, 96).	c. 600m east
DU019-003	Sutton South	Cairn-unclassified	This is a kerbed cairn on the summit of Shelmartin (diam. 15.8m; H c. 2m). Kerbstones are visible in NE and SW. There is considerable collapse in the W and S section. Much of the cairn was rebuilt in the early 20th century	c. 670m south

RMP. NO.	TOWNLAND	CLASSIFICATION	DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE TO COMPLEX
			(McCready 1893, 23, 446-7; Westropp 1922, 59).	
DU019-004003	Howth	Barrow-mound barrow	Located at the NW end of a natural knoll known as 'Dun Hill' which has been enclosed in antiquity (DU019-004002-). A later cairn was apparently built on top of a low earthen mound thought by Westropp (1922, 58-9) to be a barrow.	c. 950m southeast
DU019-004001	Howth	Cairn-unclassified	<p>Located at the NW end of a natural knoll known as 'Dun Hill' which has been enclosed in antiquity (DU019-004002-). This is a circular denuded cairn (diam 14m; H 1.5m) which incorporates a cist-like structure (L 0.8m; W 0.89m; D 0.5m). The latter is indicated as 'post office signal post' on the 1843 edition of the OS 6-inch map and may not be original (Westropp 1922, 58-9). This cairn was apparently built on top of a low earthen mound thought to be a barrow (DU019-004003-).</p> <p>The headland was subject to gorse fire over the summer of 2013 revealing field walls to the southwest. The cist itself and the summit remained unburned.</p>	c. 950m southeast
DU019-004002	Howth	Hilltop enclosure	The natural knoll known as 'Dung Hill' is a regular oval platform (L 41m, Wth 30m) defined by a steep, exposed rock scarp. It occupies an imposing position with dramatic views onto Howth harbour and Dublin Bay. According to Westropp there had been evidence for revetment and dry-stone walling around the knoll in the late 19th-century (1922, 58-59). The headland was subject to gorse fire over the summer of 2013 revealing field walls to the SW and possible cairn material or collapsed revetment to the W. There is a cairn in the NW end of the monument (DU019-004001-).	c. 950m southeast
DU015-027001	Howth Demesne	Castle-tower house	Located in grounds on the N side of Howth Head overlooking Irelands Eye. A fine gatehouse (DU015-027002-) is attached by a battlemented wall to Howth Castle which incorporates in its southern range a massive three-storey tower house with corner towers.	c. 1.1km northeast

RMP. NO.	TOWNLAND	CLASSIFICATION	DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE TO COMPLEX
			Attached to the E of this is a two-storey hall of 17th century date. Classical style alterations to the central hall date from the early 18th-century when the castle was enlarged and modernised by William St. Lawrence (Bence-Jones 1988, 155-156; Dawson 1976, 122-132; Mc Cready 1893, 447). Re-rendered c.1990.	
DU015-027002	Howth Demesne	Gatehouse	The gate house is located on the north side of a courtyard attached to Howth Castle (DU015-027001-) by a rubble stone bawn wall, c.1525, with round headed integral carriageway, gun loops and crow stepped crenellated parapet (NIAH). It stands three storeys high with a battlemented parapet and a NE tower which projects above parapet level. Built of randomly coursed rubble with dressed quoins. A studded wooden gate is still present on the E side of the gateway below a round arch formed from sandstone and limestone which alternate to create a banding effect. The gateway has a segmental arched vault running E-W. There are buttresses to first floor level on the E and S sides. Two high vaulted chambers are entered off the N side of entrance passage through round-arched passages. Their interior is lit by single slit opes (L 6.40m, Wth 4.20m). The S side is defended by a musket hole. Entrance to upper floors is through the attached outbuildings in the W.	c. 1.2km northeast
DU015-027003	Howth Demesne	Armorial plaque (present location)	An armorial plaque (DU019-001002-) was originally set into an external wall of Watermill cottage (DU019-001001-). The armorial plaque is now concreted into the northern façade of the stable block above an entranceway at Howth Castle. It shows the arms of the St. Lawrence family, Howth, 20th Baron of Howth and wife Elizabeth (Plunkett), the initials C.S. and E.P. and a date 1572 (Bowen 1963, 75-76).	c. 1.2km northeast
DU015-026	Howth Demesne	Chapel	Located on the grounds of Howth Castle north of the stableyard and west of the driveway, the church is surrounded by overgrowth and ivy covered. This large medieval chapel is rectangular in plan (int. dims. L 12.20m, Wth.4.50m) and built of randomly coursed sandstone masonry with dressed quoins. Originally	c. 1.2km northeast

RMP. NO.	TOWNLAND	CLASSIFICATION	DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE TO COMPLEX
			entered through opposed doorways (blocked) which have almost flat segmental arches at W end of nave. The remains of a pointed arched opening in west end forms the entrance. The arch has been modified at the base, stone removed and brick inserted. Tufa has been used for one of the southern jambs. An impressive E window has a pointed arch with dressed sandstone hood and roll moulding internally. Draw bar holes are present. There are blocked up, flat, segmental arched windows at E end of N and S walls. Appears to be some dumping of material internally.	

3.8 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970-2024) and available reports reveals that, other than the recent course of geophysical survey (described below) there have been no previous archaeological investigations carried out within the site boundary. There have, however, been several carried out within the study area (c. 1km), the results of which are summarised below.

3.8.1 Geophysical Survey

A geophysical survey was recently carried by J.M. Leigh Surveys across the site surrounding the church, the suspected ecclesiastical enclosure, and the original footprint of the graveyard (Leigh 2024, Licence No. 24R0438; Appendix 1). The survey identified a number of features of potential archaeological significance. The first is an anomaly in the south of the site, which may indicate a spread of structural or rubble material. A possible large pit feature was identified in the north of the site; however, interpretation is cautious as the pit is located adjacent to the current site entrance and a modern building. A curvilinear trend was noted c. 28m from the church remains, within the northeastern extent. This may represent a portion of the outer enclosure for the ecclesiastical site. Another curvilinear trend, corresponding with a topographical bank identified during fieldwork, and located c. 12m from the church, could represent the inner enclosure ditch associated with the ecclesiastical site. Further faint linear trends, with no clear pattern or form, could represent internal divisions within the ecclesiastical enclosure.

3.8.2 Nearby Investigations

A course of test trenching was undertaken directly north and west of the graveyard and enclosing ditch (c. 45m) in 1996, with one trench excavated along the boundary of the graveyard to investigate the survival of the enclosing feature. It was established that an outer ditch did not exist in this area, a 0.2m deep layer of silty clay containing abundant cockle shell and some charcoal extended westwards from the bank (Meenan 1996, Licence No. 96E0106, Bennett 1996:138).

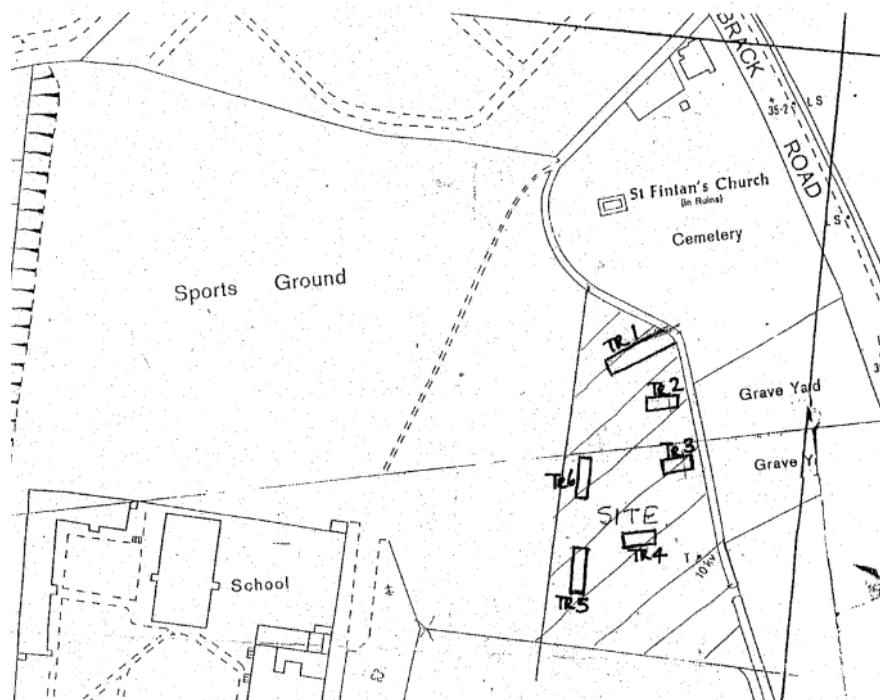


FIGURE 24: Location of Meenan's trenches, 1996

Two other nearby investigations produced no finds of archaeological significance: Bennett 2015:245, Licence No. 15E0484 (Hayden 2015, c. 100m south); Bennett 2016, Licence No. 16E0348 (Collins 2016, c. 220m south).;

3.9 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Down Survey Map of the Barony of Coolock, c. 1655

This map does not provide great detail; however, a church is indicated within the lands of Sutton, possibly representing St Fintan's church/ecclesiastical site. Sutton Castle (Sutton House) is found within the lands to the south of the site. Howth Castle (DU015-027001) is shown prominently to the northeast, along with a suggestion of a designed landscape. Another building with a cross to the northeast may represent an earlier church on the site of St. Mary's Church. Additionally, Corr Castle (DU015-025) is depicted to the north.

Rocque's Map of Dublin City and Environs, 1757

This map offers the first detailed depiction of the site, illustrating the church within a rectangular enclosure. The site is labelled as 'Ruins of St Fenton's Church' and one large structure at the centre of the site is illustrated, with three smaller structures on the western and eastern sides. A roadway borders the site to the north, leading directly to the estate of Howth castle, labelled as 'Lord Howths'. The remainder of the land immediately surrounding the church remains as undeveloped fields, in use for agricultural crops and livestock grazing. Sutton house and associated gardens are depicted to the south.

Rocque's Map of the County of Dublin, 1760

This depiction shows few changes to the site. The church is still marked as 'in ruins' with a few structures depicted. There are additionally crosses illustrated surrounding the church structure, indicating the presence of a cemetery. The roadway to the north of the site, leading

to Howth castle, is still present, and another large roadway is depicted to the south of the site, leading into Howth Town.

Taylor's Map of the Environs of Dublin, 1816

Taylor's map offers a less detailed depiction of the area, but it continues to illustrate St Fintan's church, written as 'St Fontons Church'. This depiction shows the church structure, with associated outbuildings, accessed by a laneway leading directly to a road to the west, linking to Sutton, and adjacent to the waterfront. The church is not labelled as in ruins. Howth Castle and Demesne are depicted to the northeast, but no roadway is illustrated leading from the church to the castle.

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1843, scale 1:10,560

This map illustrates St Fintan's Church (correctly spelt) as comprising a single structure with a labelled Graveyard, enclosed on the north and east by the Sutton North townland boundary. This is the first map depiction that shows a curving enclosure bounding the graveyard to the west. The church is not labelled as in ruins. A roadway is depicted to the east, leading to an adjoining road which connects to the coast to the northwest and a geological area to the southwest, labelled 'The Flat Rocks'. The area immediately surrounding the site remains as undeveloped agricultural fields. St Fintan's Well is now labelled to the south of the site. Howth Castle and Demesne lands continue to be illustrated to the northeast.

Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1871-5, scale 1:10,560

This map offers a slightly more detailed depiction, illustrating the site as containing a single structure at the centre, with tree lined boundaries at the north and east. The curving boundary along the western extent of the graveyard is still depicted. A major addition to this map is the construction of St. Fintan's estate and associated gardens and lands, located immediately to the south. St Fintan's Well is labelled and incorporated with the estate lands.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1909-10, scale 1:2,500

This map, illustrated at a closer scale, depicts the site as largely unchanged. The church is once again marked as 'in ruins', but a clear curving tree-lined embankment bounds the western side of the graveyard. The small church structure is still depicted towards the centre of the site, with another, more modern structure now added within the northwest corner. The church structure shows no hachuring within, indicating that it is no longer in use. The estate of St Fintan's is still located to the south and is largely unchanged. Furthermore, the Sutton and Howth Electric Tramway now runs along the eastern boundary of the site, following the Carrickbrack roadway.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1940-61, scale 1:10,560

The last edition OS map (1940-61) shows no significant changes. The church continues to be marked as 'in ruins' and the graveyard is still depicted with a curving boundary on the western edge; however, a dotted line to the south indicates an extension of the graveyard to this area. The Sutton and Howth tramline continues to border the eastern edge of the site.

3.10 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage for the area held by the Ordnance Survey (1995-2018), Google Earth (2005-2024) and Bing Maps (2024) was undertaken with the goal of identifying any features of archaeological potential surrounding the site of the church and

graveyard. Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage did not reveal any previously unidentified archaeological features, with the site remaining relatively unchanged for the past three decades. The church and ecclesiastical enclosure are covered by trees, reducing aerial imagery visibility, with the surrounding lands containing the graveyard and associated burial plots. There is a slight curvilinear line noted within the vegetation in the 2009 imagery (Google Earth, May 2009), which aligns with the curvilinear enclosure ditch bounding the western side of the site, and with the curvilinear feature identified in the recent geophysical survey carried out on site. The structure to the south (now a Montessori and childcare centre) appears to have been constructed between 1995 and 2001 (OSI), with the playing pitches located to the west present prior to this time.

3.11 DRONE AND PHOTOGRAMMETRY SURVEY

A drone survey was undertaken at the site from 7th to 9th of October 2024 in order to create Photogrammetric and Digital Elevation models (Flight number J4389.1). The survey was undertaken by Enda Lydon using a DJI Mini 4 Pro and the models were produced using Agisoft software with a 3D model generated in Sketchfab.⁶⁰



PLATE 37: Drone survey in progress

3.12 SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY/HERITAGE

St Fintan's church and graveyard (and associated features) are located within the townlands of Sutton North and Sutton South. The surrounding townlands consists of Howth to the southeast, Howth Demesne to the northeast and north, and Censure to the south. These townlands are located within the parish of Howth and barony of Coolock, County Dublin.

⁶⁰ accessible here: <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/st-fintans-chapel-e875cc59e7314afd829039cab9781ba5>).

3.12.1 Place Name Analysis

Townland and topographic names are an invaluable source of information on topography, land ownership and land use within the landscape. They also provide information on history, archaeological monuments, and folklore of an area. A place name may refer to a long-forgotten site and may indicate the possibility that the remains of certain sites may still survive below the ground surface. The Ordnance Survey surveyors wrote down townland names in the 1830s and 1840s, when the entire country was mapped for the first time. Some of the townland names in the study area are of Irish origin and through time have been anglicised. The main references used for the place name analysis were Logainm and Irish Local Names Explained by P.W Joyce (1870). A description and possible explanation of each townland name in the environs of St Fintan's are provided below.

Sutton North (townland): in Irish, *Cill Fhionntain Thuaidh*, with 'cill' meaning church, 'thuaidh' north, and 'Fhionntain', translating to Fintan, likely in reference to the Irish St. Fintan. With the entire area of Sutton being known as *Cill Fhionntain*, Church of Fintan. The name 'Sutton' appears in historic records as early as 1228-48, within the Calander of Archbishop Alen.⁶¹ Some interpretations of the name claim that 'Sutton' is derived from the Irish, 'Suí Fhiontáin' which means the seat of St Fintan'.⁶² A similar root construction has resulted in the name 'Seefin' in the Dublin Mountains and 'Seefin' in the Ballyhoura Mountains, Limerick. Both of these names relate to prominent mountain peaks and the example in the Dublin Mountains is topped with a neolithic passage tomb. This may be relevant at Sutton given that the townland boundary crosses the peak of Shelmartin, the most prominent peak on the peninsula that is topped with the remnant of a kerbed cairn (DU019-003). An alternative, and more widely accepted derivation for the origin of the name comes from the common place name of Sutton in England where it is derived from *sudh*, *suth*, or *suð*, and *tun* referring to the generic placename 'southern farm'. The first record of the name is in the 13th century, and it could have been applied to the area which forms the southern town on the peninsula by the ascendant Anglo-Norman landlords.

Adjacent Sutton South (townland): in Irish *Cill Fhionntain Theas*. As above, *Theas* meaning south and *cill Fhionntain*, meaning Church of Fintan

Howth (townland): in Irish *Binn Éadair*, with *binn* meaning peak or cliff. With the name formally meaning Édar's peak. The name Howth derives from the Old Norse *Hofuð*, meaning 'head' or 'headland' and is indicative of Howth's place within the Scandinavian controlled Kingdom of Dublin from the 9th century.

Howth Demesne (townland): in Irish *Diméin Bhinn Éadair*, with *diméin* meaning demesne, and as above *Bhinn Éadair*, being Édar's peak. This land would have originally been a part of the estate or land of the manor of Howth.

⁶¹ MacNeil, 1950.

⁶² Aisling Collins, 2016. *Archaeological Monitoring Report, Shandon, Carrickbrack Rd, Howth Rd, Co. Dublin, 16EO348*. Unpublished report. The source for this assertion is not included in the report.

Little is known of the origin of the townland that runs to the east of Sutton - Censure: in Irish *Seinséar* or *Sheinséir*. A castle site is recorded at Drumleck (DU019-007) within this townland and it may once have formed a medieval landholding forming part of the lordship of Howth.

3.12.2 Cultural Heritage Sites

The term 'cultural heritage' can be used as an over-arching term that can be applied to both archaeology and architecture. However, it also refers to more ephemeral aspects of the environment, which are often recorded in folklore or tradition or possibly date to a more recent period.

There is a nearby holy well, named St Fintan's holy well (DU019-002) located c. 200m to the south of the site, and believed to have been connect with St Fintan's church or oratory. There is folklore surrounding this well that states that water from the well is able to cure sore eyes and stomach disorders. Further traditions such as saying 'Three Hail Marys' in honour of St Fintan, drink some water and then walk around the well three times have been recorded (duchas.ie, The Schools' Collection, Volume 0792, 1; Ó Danchair 1958; SMR File). Because of these traditions the well may be classified as a Cultural Heritage Site due to the customs that have evolved around it.

Another aspect of the Cultural Heritage of the site is captured in the long-lived association of the site with the prominent local Stokes family who produced so many important antiquarians, many of whom turned their attention to St Fintan's and were ultimately buried there. Dr William Stokes, who was buried in the graveyard in 1878 published a poem about St Fintan's:

Wandering one bright summer day,
Nigh Saint Fintan's ruins grey,
A simple gravestone met my eye,
A vestige of mortality!

No proud epitaph thereon,
Spoke of him there who had gone,
Nothing but a simple name,
Told his greatness, told his fame.

'Neath Ben Heder's wooded crest,
Chose he this unbroken rest,
Save the breeze or murmuring deep,
Nought disturbs his lasting sleep.

Fair the prospect far and wide,
Flow'ry slope and heaving tide,
Far away the sapphire Heaven,
Blends with sunset hues of even'.

Rest, great master, 'neath the sod,
Rest, thy spirit, with thy God,
And thy name and works will be,

A nation's monument to thee.⁶³

3.12.3 Folklore

There are few entries from the National Folklore Collection (dúchas.ie) describing St Fintan's church and graveyard.

St Fintan, along with St Necessan are believed to be the patron saints of Howth. There are over 50 Irish Saints named Fintan, and it is unknown for sure which Fintan may be connected with Sutton. Ó Riain suggests that 'some of the minor churches associated with Fiontan may reflect the spread of the cult of the most important bearer of the name Fiontan of Clonenagh.'⁶⁴ This saint, believed to have lived in the 6th century, was associated with the Uí Dúnlainge dynasty,⁶⁵ a branch of which – the Uí Dunachada, later known as MacGillaMo-Cholmóc – held important landholdings in the town of Dublin pre and post invasion.

Many places, including the church and nearby well are named after St Fintan, in addition there is a St Fintan's terrace, cottage and church.⁶⁶ The other folklore connected to the area is in relation to St Fintan's Well (DU019-002), described above, with its healing properties, and traditions surrounding it.⁶⁷

⁶³ *Weekly Irish Times*, 29 May 1886, p.2.

⁶⁴ Collins, 2016. *Archaeological Monitoring Report*

⁶⁵ Ailbhe MacShamhráin 1996. *Church and Polity in Pre-Norman Ireland*. (an Sagart Maynooth), p. 79.

⁶⁶ *The Schools' Collection*, Volume 0792, p. 86.

⁶⁷ *ibid*

4 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Examination of each of the elements that make up the whole of a historic place provides a wider perspective and context for the whole site. This assessment of significance is based on the various elements which distinguish St Fintan's church and graveyard as a special place and an analysis of the combination of these various elements and the ways in which they combine.

St Fintan's church, graveyard, ecclesiastical enclosure and cross are archaeological sites of historical significance listed on the RMP (DU015-031001-004). The associated holy well (c. 270m south) is also recorded on the RMP (DU019-002). The graveyard is recorded on the NIAH (11358033) and the church and graveyard are listed as a protected structure within the Fingal County Development Plan (2023-2029) (RPS 575). The site is therefore subject to statutory legal protection and notice is required in advance of any ground-works or conservation works.

St Fintan's church and graveyard is a site of great antiquity with the ruins of a church containing fabric that dates to several phases within the medieval and later medieval period. The use of the site dates back to the early medieval period as an ecclesiastical enclosure.

4.2 ARCHITECTURAL AND ARTISTIC SIGNIFICANCE

The church of St Fintan's in and of itself presents a unique structure of a form unknown elsewhere in Ireland. Close analysis of the structure, in addition to a review of historic writings and depictions relating to the church have allowed several conclusions to be reached with regard to the standing fabric. Firstly, the church in its current form represents an example of local craftsmanship dating to the 18th or early 19th century, possibly consistent with rebuilding a less sightly ruin to improve the aesthetics of the burial place of the local landlord resident at 'Sutton House'.

While much of the structure, including the bellcote and all of the windows and niches/wall presses in the north and south walls, derive from this rebuilding, elements of the eastern and western gables are likely to be of 14th or 15th century date. These include the limestone elements of the pointed-arch doorway, the visible putlog holes (which would have held original timber scaffolding) and the eastern window. While the clumsy assembly of the eastern window makes it unclear whether the window was made for this building, it has been installed in its current location with the apparent use of scaffolding and putlog holes, which frame the opening. The septfoil window head is also an unusual motif and is not common in medieval Ireland. This feature, given its rarity, is of regional importance.

It is, perhaps, the presence of tufa stone that presents scope to propose the architectural element of most significance. The identification of a number of apparently shaped tufa voussoirs re-used within the fabric of the church suggests that this stone may have been used in an earlier phase of the church as window or door surrounds, or, more significantly, as voussoirs from a vaulted roof. Tufa appears in a number of important churches both in the locality (St Doulagh's and St Patrick's) and further afield (Cormac's Chapel). All of these churches belong to a small group of nationally important structures which represent a uniquely Irish architectural development of the later 11th and early 12th centuries, described as double-

vaulted roofs. These double-vaulted structures are linked to developments in Hiberno-Norse Dublin and the presence of such a church at Sutton would not be inconsistent with the tradition that King Sitric of Dublin ordered the construction of a church at Howth in 1048, several years after he was responsible for the construction of the cathedral at Christchurch. While the miniature of St Fintan's Church adorning Taylor's 1816 mapping conforms to the general shape of such an early church, it cannot be conclusively proved that a 'double-vaulted' church once stood here, the presence of tufa on site increases the significance of the church from an architectural perspective.



PLATE 38: Shaped tufa voussoirs at St Patrick's Church, Skerries (Ryan et al 2004)

4.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

4.3.1 Early Medieval Monument

As has been illustrated by the condition study and the Digital Elevation Model presented above, St Fintan's ecclesiastical enclosure is defined by an escarpment to the south and a (much denuded) bank to the north. While modest in character and partially obscured by the presence of later memorials, this enclosure is regionally significant. While standing cemetery walls and curving lines of roadways have fossilised many such enclosures in the modern landscape, no other upstanding earthen banks of early medieval ecclesiastical enclosures survive in coastal north Dublin, in the city, or in south Dublin as far as Tully Church. The same can be said of non-ecclesiastical early medieval enclosures (e.g. ringforts) across the same area. This makes St Fintan's an important survival within a local and regional context.

4.3.2 Medieval Church and Graveyard

The significance of the various elements and phases of the church are outlined in section 4.2 above. The area of the ecclesiastical enclosure surrounding the church is largely devoid of more modern memorials and several gravemarkers of roughly shaped tufa and limestone are evident. Some of these are large slabs, while others are small flat stones. All of these markers are likely to be early in date, possibly medieval with some potentially being early medieval in date. The arrangement of these early graves within the ecclesiastical enclosure suggests that they were orientated in line with a church that is no longer standing. The significance of these early graves is regional, as such markers can be seen locally at sites such as St Doulagh's; however, the abundance and large size of some of these headstones is unusual in a Dublin context.

4.3.3 Archaeological Potential for Subsurface Remains

The combination of curved boundary of the graveyard/church site, the visible enclosing ditch that forms the southern boundary, and the presence of an early cross and nearby holy well, all suggest early medieval origins for the site. The presence of a possible outer and inner enclosure ditch was recently suggested during the course of a geophysical survey across the site.⁶⁸ The geophysical survey also identified an area of high resistance towards the southern boundary of the enclosure that may represent the position of a former stone building.⁶⁹ The significance of these features cannot be confirmed without archaeological investigation.

There is a high potential for sub-surface archaeological deposits, soils, features, or artefacts to survive due to lack of any significant development or excessive disturbance from burials. This is particularly the case within the limit of the medieval enclosure which is largely devoid of modern burials.

4.3.4 Artefacts Associated with the Site and Surrounds

Information on artefact finds from the study area in County Dublin has been recorded by the National Museum of Ireland since the late 18th century. The three recorded finds further indicate medieval activity in the study area.

TABLE 3: Artefacts and stray finds (Source: National Museum of Ireland Topographic Files).

MUSEUM NO	2012:276
TOWNLAND	Sutton
FIND	Copper alloy rivet from ship timber
REFERENCE	NMI Topographical Files

MUSEUM NO	2000:71
TOWNLAND	Sutton
FIND	Possible lead alloy finger ring
REFERENCE	NMI Topographical Files

⁶⁸ Leigh 2024, Licence No. 24R0438, Appendix

⁶⁹ *ibid*

MUSEUM NO	1962:72
TOWNLAND	Howth
FIND	Stone line sinker
REFERENCE	NMI Topographical Files

4.4 SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The graveyard is socially significant as it is still visited by local people. Many of the plots belong to long established Howth families and several significant memorials are grouped around the church, including the Jackson pedestal monument, a large chest tomb, the ledger tomb of Margaret McNair Stokes and the plot of William Stokes. Local landowning figures, the Bellingham family, are buried in a plot defined by granite coping and iron railings abutting the northern wall of the church.

The existing northern, southern and eastern graveyard enclosure walls and entranceway are not intrinsically important, although they are symbolically important in defining the graveyard and contribute to the reflective atmosphere and setting within the enclosure. The curving layout of the graveyard wall in the northwest corner is important as it retains the shape of the original ecclesiastical enclosure and is, presumably, constructed over the remains of the medieval bank.

5 ASSESSMENT OF CONSERVATION ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

5.1 ISSUES AND VULNERABILITIES

5.1.1 Wrought Iron Grille

Pitched, high level wrought iron grille, set upon two long iron runners embedded with fittings into the tops of both side walls and ridge angle set into both gables. Visual inspection and analysis of the drone survey confirms that the grille has been welded *in-situ* and not assembled with bolts etc. The grille is badly rusted, blown and, though it appears to be solid, there is significant weight resting on the runners and it is difficult to ascertain how many fittings fix the runners into the wall.

5.1.2 Corroding Wrought Iron Fittings

The primary issue affecting the structure of the church is the expansion of corroding iron fittings expanding and spalling both historic stone and masonry joints:

- The wrought iron window grille in the northeast window is rusted and blown and, on first inspection appears to have split and spalled the interior jamb on the southern side, though this damage relates to an earlier fitting as it is noted by Cochrane in 1893. Regardless, the joints have the potential to further impact upon the medieval window surrounds.
- The wrought iron window grille in the interior of the east window is rusted and blown. This grille is positioned behind the blocked-up infill of the eastern window and is therefore fulfilling no function.
- Wrought iron entrance gate anchors are rusted and blown and their expansion is causing cracks in masonry jambs.

5.1.3 Vegetation damaging masonry elements

There is a large, embedded ivy root in the centre of the internal north wall, that is probably the cause of the vertical crack on the external face, behind the Bellingham family plot. Some smaller roots sprouting new growth can be seen emerging from the internal face of the north wall and are likely to be sprouting from this embedded root.

5.1.4 Loss of Pointing

There is extensive loss of pointing on all facades, at doorway and window apertures; these voids allow water ingress into the heart of the walls. Inappropriate cement pointing evident at the entrance door jambs, and this is causing exfoliation of the red sandstone voussoir with spalling possible at other stones.

5.1.5 Flaunting of Wall Tops

The cement flaunting on the wall tops is in generally good condition, however, it is boasted on the east end of the south wall, adjoining the east gable.

5.1.5 Upkeep and maintenance of memorials

Surrounds of several of the historic memorials are rusted and degraded, particularly the surround to the 1857 Jackson memorial. Several tall slabs have toppled and are broken.

5.2 POTENTIAL THREATS

5.2.1 Damage to subsurface Archaeology

Inadvertent damage to subsurface archaeology could be caused by inappropriate interventions to monuments or headstones or modification to or upkeep of the existing site boundaries. Any such works would need to be subject to a Section 12 notification to the National Monument Service.

5.2.2 Damage to Church from falling branches

A large beech tree to the west of the church has the potential to grow large boughs over the church over future decades. Falling boughs have the potential to significantly damage the standing masonry and it is recommended that this be managed by cutting back the growth over the church as required.

5.2.3 Impact to Setting

Inappropriate modification or modernising of family plots has the potential to impact upon the character and setting of the graveyard. While this has not been an issue in the old graveyard to date, there remains potential for such inappropriate intervention, particularly as certain plots (such as the Bellingham plot) remain active.

5.3 RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE GAPS

5.3.1 Nature and extent of Archaeology onsite

Geophysical survey and creation of a Digital Elevation Model during the course of this study have enhanced the available knowledge of the archaeological resource of the site. Archaeological excavation would be required to test the conclusions of these surveys.

5.3.2 St Fintan

A research project into the identity of the St Fintan that is associated with the site might be able to add to the current state of knowledge. Two individuals in particular warrant further investigation – Fintan of Clonenagh, who, in some sources is described as the son of Criomhtann,⁷⁰ a name with important local associations and Fintan of Rheinau,⁷¹ a man that was kidnapped from somewhere in Leinster following a negotiation to liberate his sister, a woman who had been kidnapped from the area sometime around 820. This is interesting in the context of the entry in the Annals of Ulster for 821 when a large number of women were taken captive. St Fintan of Clonenagh is also presented as the same man as Munna of Taghmon, a site which has a similar short armed cross to that at Sutton. Research into the dedication of an early medieval stone-built church within a 6th century enclosure⁷² across the bay at Kill of the Grange might also shed light on a cult to the saint in the broader area.

5.4 TOURISM, INTERPRETATION AND SITE ACCESS

5.4.1 Tourism Potential

As the site is an active graveyard, it is not deemed appropriate to work towards actively increasing footfall through the site. However, public access should be maintained to the historic monuments.

5.4.2 Desirability of on-site interpretation

In line with Fingal County Council policy the application of heritage signage requires in depth consideration: 'It is important to get a message across but also to avoid over signing. An excess of signs will create unnecessary clutter and can be intrusive, confusing and may dilute your message, whilst also creating a maintenance burden'.⁷³ The erection of signage at an active graveyard also poses some ethical issues, particularly for the users of the site and those with active plots. Rather the information gathered during the course of this study could be added to Howth's digital databases, such as a possible future StoryMap. The creation of a community heritage booklet or the inclusion of the site in a heritage trail should also be considered as part of the wider Howth heritage strategy arising from the recent Howth Heritage Audit. Any such content could form the basis for a local talk and temporary exhibition in a local venue, such as the library or old courthouse, while a more permanent exhibition should be considered in any future Howth Community Arts, Cultural and Heritage space.⁷⁴

⁷⁰ Ó Riain 2011, *Dictionary* p.339.

⁷¹ Aidan Breen, *Dictionary of Irish Biography*: <https://www.dib.ie/biography/fintan-a3104>

⁷² Paul Duffy 2018. Excavations at Kill of the Grange E004940; C00845. Unpublished report

⁷³ Fingal County Council 20 *Heritage Signage and Heritage Trail Guidance*, :
<https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2021-06/a4-fcc-heritiage-signage-booklet-eng-web.pdf>

⁷⁴ Fingal County Council *Howth Community Heritage Audit* p. 34 <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2024-09/howth-community-heritage-audit.pdf>

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 COUNCIL ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Brian O'Connor and Fingal County Council Architects department have made the following assessments and recommendations in regard to the ecology on site.

INTRODUCTION

The advice of the FCC Biodiversity Officer will be sought in advance of the commissioning of any ecological survey and recommendations for the St Fintan's ecclesiastical site and curtilage.

The site contains several potential flora and fauna habitats. There is an established planted edge on the boundary of the old graveyard, consisting of hedgerows to the west, north and east, with some mature woodland on the southern side. Across the Carrickbrack Road from the graveyard, there is a large woodland located on the lower slopes of Howth Head. The gate lodge, at the entrance to the graveyard, is a roofless single storey building, overgrown with vegetation and in a derelict state for several years. The historic church remains are small in scale, roofless, with largely intact walls, and has been cleared of vegetation since early 2024.

Any ecological survey work for St Fintan's should acknowledge plans for the neighbouring site at Red Rock/ Middle Mountain, Sutton, also commissioned by FCC. The key objective of The Red Rock Management Plan 2020 - 30 is 'to establish a long-term strategy for the protection, preservation, and management of Red Rock's natural and cultural heritage resources, in addition to its diverse recreational assets' – quote from Cultural Heritage Study by CRDS Ltd., 2019, for FCC. It should also be noted that the Howth Special Amenity Area Order was confirmed in 2020 by the Minister for the Environment, including St Fintan's graveyard. The SAAO operational plan includes action 1.4 - *To carry out a management appraisal of best flora sites in Howth including Council owned sites at Red Rock and field adjacent to Sutton Woods and road verges near the Summit and St. Fintan's Cemetery.*

SURVEY WORK

As advised, the following ecological assessments and recommendations for St. Fintan's would be carried out on a seasonal schedule throughout 2025.

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) Report

As per CIEEM best practice guidance, the PEA will include a desk-based assessment and field survey to identify any ecological constraints within, or in proximity to the site. The survey will map the habitats present on site and include a scoping assessment for birds (including wintering, breeding, barn owls), bats (habitat suitability and preliminary roost assessment), mammals, invasive alien species, as well as any other fauna/flora expected to be present within the site. The purpose of this work is to provide an accurate scope of further ecological investigations required to manage and mitigate ecological constraints associated with the proposed development. The recommendations of this work may lead to targeted species surveys.

The PEA should be planned for completion by the end of February 2025.

Full Ecological Appraisal

Informed by the PEA the following studies would be completed throughout the growing, nesting and roosting season from March to August 2025:

1. Undertake flora study (at least 3 visits between April and August).
2. Record all legally protected, rare and locally rare plant species. GPS records (ITM based) are to be provided in an Excel or Access format for all plants or groups of plants. The locations are also to be shown on a map in the report and the Excel table in the Appendix of the report.
3. Identify Invasive species locations on an aerial photograph and topographical survey – site plan, floor plans (supplied by employer).
4. Following recommendations of the PEA, undertake Targeted Species Surveys
5. Undertake assessment of the breeding bird population (3 visits between April and early June).
6. Undertake a Bat Survey (species present, roosting sites in historic building) (two night time surveys and one day time visit to inspect the building for roosting sites between May & September).
7. Indicate on an aerial photograph where rare or protected fauna species are present.
8. Identify ecologically significant and sensitive areas on an aerial photograph.
9. Make detailed recommendations for habitat improvements with associated target species.
10. To organise a presentation online via Teams in conjunction with the project team on the findings of the study.

Ecological Impact Assessment

Following completion of the PEA, an initial Ecological Impact Assessment of the building conservation proposals in this CMP will be procured, with mitigation measures to avoid, reduce or offset negative impacts on the site ecology. A final Ecological Impact Assessment on the final building conservation and other works proposal will follow completion of the Full Ecological Assessment of the site, and once a programme has been scheduled and confirmed for the implementation of the works.

AA and NIS

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening (Stage 1) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) (Stage 2) – to be advised.

6.2 WROUGHT IRON GRILLE

Corroded iron grill to be removed and replaced with a galvanised equivalent etched primed and coated to a selected finish colour.

6.3 CORRODED WROUGHT IRON FITTINGS

- Removal of corroded wrought iron window grille at eastern window and re-pointing of window infill with appropriate Non-Hydraulic Lime mortar.

- Removal of northeast window grille and replacement with a galvanised equivalent etched primed and coated to a selected finish colour.
- Removal of corroded wrought iron door fittings and replacement with a galvanised equivalent etched primed and coated to a selected finish colour. Iron gate to be stripped back and treated.

6.4 VEGETATION DAMAGING MASONRY ELEMENTS

Drilling and application of ecoplugs to the embedded ivy root within the fissure in the northern wall. Regrouting/repointing of the fissure internally and externally.

6.5 LOSS OF POINTING

There appears to be more widespread sand: cement pointing to the external face of the west elevation including door reveal i.e. larger area of repointing required.

- Rake out and finer repointing to the reveals of the stonework to the window and door openings including internal recesses.
- Rake out of sand cement and repointing generally above the modern membrane line to the north, south and east elevation internally and externally, taking care to preserve the surviving internal render.

6.6 FLAUNCHING OF WALL TOPS

Remove boasted flaunching on the wall top on the east end of the south wall, adjoining the east gable, and replace with flaunching using Non-Hydraulic Lime sand mix.

6.7 INTERPRETATION

Publication of an article detailing the results of the study. A version of same to be drafted for a local paper (Northside People) and for dissemination on Fingal County Council website and any future digital resource such as StoryMap as part of the broader strategy identified by the Howth Heritage Audit.

6.8 FURTHER RESEARCH

That consideration be given to establishing a research project into St Fintan and his local associations.

6.9 GRAVEYARD MAINTENANCE

That all maintenance of the graveyard and memorials, in particular maintenance to the unmarked graveslabs of potentially great antiquity close to the church, be carried out in accordance with the guidelines established in the Guidance for the Care, Conservation and

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APPENDIX 1 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

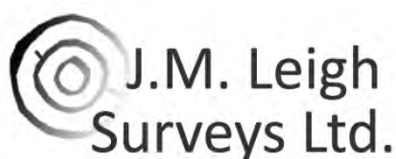
REPORT

St Fintan's Church and Graveyard,
Sutton,
County Dublin

Date:
06/09/2024

Licence: 24R0438

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GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY SUMMARY SHEET
ST FINTAN'S CHURCH & GRAVEYARD,
SUTTON, COUNTY DUBLIN

Site Name	St Fintan's	Ref No.	24041
Townland	Sutton South	Licence No.	24R438
County	County Dublin	Licence Holder	Joanna Leigh
ITM (centre)	E726980, N738090	Purpose	Site Investigation
Client	IAC Ltd.	Reference No.	NA

Ground Conditions Survey was conducted where possible to the east and south of the church ruins.

Survey Type Detailed resistance and gradiometer surveys were conducted.

Summary of Results

The resistance survey has identified several responses of archaeological potential.

In the south of the data an area of high resistance is of interest. The high resistance readings are typical of structural, or rubble remains. It is speculated that the remains of a former structure or building are represented here.

An area of high resistance and associated spread of low resistance responses in the northeast of the data is of possible archaeological interest. The low resistance response is indicative of a large pit-type feature. However, the responses are adjacent to a tarmac entrance and modern building. It is equally possible that these responses are more recent in origin.

Adjacent to the low resistance responses there is a curvilinear trend. This appears to be c.28m from the church ruins and it is speculated that this could represent the remains of the outer enclosure for the ecclesiastical site. However, this is also adjacent to a modern building and interpretation is cautious.

A similar faint curvilinear trend appears to correlate with a low bank feature identified in the topography during fieldwork. This is c.12m from the church remains and it is possible that this represents an inner enclosure. Interpretation is cautious as the trend is at the limits of instrument detection.

Further faint linear trends have no clear pattern. However, it is possible that they represent internal divisions within the ecclesiastical enclosure.

Report Date 06/09/2024

Report Author Joanna Leigh

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Geophysical Survey Report

St Fintan's, Sutton, County Dublin

1 Introduction

- 1.1 A geophysical survey has been conducted by J. M. Leigh Surveys Ltd. at a site in the townland of Sutton South, County Dublin. The survey was requested by IAC Ltd. on behalf of Fingal County Council and forms part of a wider archaeological study for St Fintan's Church and Graveyard conservation plan.
- 1.2 St Fintan's Church and Graveyard (DU015-031) is located off the R105 in Sutton, with the Suttonians Hockey Club grounds located to its west. A site location diagram is presented in Figure 1 at scale of 1:750.
- 1.3 St Fintan's Church (DU015-031002) and graveyard (DU031003) are encompassed within the recorded early ecclesiastical enclosure (DU015-031001). The ecclesiastical enclosure is described as c.28m in diameter with a flat-topped bank best preserved to the east of the church. A curving former field boundary is depicted in the 25inch historic mapping. It is possible that this represents part of the ecclesiastical enclosure. An overlay of the 25inch historic map and current google satellite image is presented in Figure 2 at a scale of 1:750.
- 1.4 Figure 3 presents the location of the detailed geophysical survey at a scale of 1:300. The location of existing headstones within the survey area were recorded through GPS survey. Their locations are also presented in Figure 3.
- 1.5 Possible topographical bank features were also noted during the fieldwork. These may represent the remains of the early ecclesiastical enclosure (DU015-031001). Their approximate location is also presented in Figure 3.
- 1.6 The main aim of the survey was to identify any geophysical responses that may represent the remains of archaeological features associated with the recorded church and graveyard site (DU015-031). A detailed gradiometer and resistance survey were conducted under licence 24R0438, issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

2 Survey ground conditions and further information

- 2.1 Very dry weather prior to the survey caused contact resistance problems during the resistance survey. This has resulted in slightly 'noisy' data, although the overall interpretation has not been compromised.

- 2.2 The gradiometer data was significantly affected by modern ferrous objects located throughout the graveyard. This has resulted in a magnetically disturbed data set and no interpretation of the results can be provided. Any responses of potential interest would be masked by the magnetic disturbance.

3 Survey Methodology

Detailed Gradiometer Survey

- 3.1 A detailed gradiometer survey detects subtle variations in the local magnetic field and measurements are recorded in nano-Tesla (nT). Some archaeological features such as ditches, large pits and fired features have an enhanced magnetic signal and can be detected through recorded survey.
- 3.2 Data was collected with a Bartington Grad 601-2 instrument. This is a specifically designed gradiometer for use in archaeological prospection. The gradiometer operates with a dual sensor capacity making survey fast and effective.
- 3.3 The instrument is calibrated in the field to ensure a constant high quality of data. Extremely sensitive, these instruments can detect variations in soil magnetism to 0.01nT, affording diverse application throughout a variety of archaeological, soil morphological and geological conditions.
- 3.4 Data was collected with a sample interval of 0.25m and a traverse interval of 0.5m. The survey grid was set out using a GPS VRS unit and corresponds with the survey grid used for the resistance survey. Survey tie-in information is available upon request.

Detailed Resistance Survey

- 3.5 A detailed resistance survey is used to record variations in electrical resistance by passing an electrical current through the ground. The subsequent earth resistance (measured in ohms) is recorded and presented in map form for interpretation. Resistance surveys are typically conducted on sites where structural or stone features are anticipated.
- 3.6 Detailed resistance survey was conducted with a Geoscan RM85 instrument. Data was collected with a parallel twin-probe array of mobile and remote electrodes. The resistance survey mobile probes were separated by 0.5m. Data was collected with a sample interval of 0.5m and a traverse interval of 1.0m.

- 3.7 The survey methodology, data presentation and report content adhere to the European Archaeological Council (EAC) (2016) 'Guidelines for the use of Geophysics in Archaeology'.

4 Data display

- 4.1 Figure 4 presents the results of the gradiometer survey at a scale of 1:300.
- 4.2 Figure 5 displays the resistance survey raw data at a scale of 1:300. The processed and interpolated data is presented in Figure 6, also at a scale of 1:300.
- 4.3 An interpretation of the resistance survey data is presented in Figure 7 at a scale of 1:300.
- 4.4 Numbers parenthesis in the text refer to specific responses highlighted in the resistance survey interpretation diagram (Figure 7).
- 4.5 The raw gradiometer and resistance data are presented in archive format as greyscale images and xy-trace plots, all at a scale of 1:500. The archive plots are used to aid interpretation of the results and are for reference only. These are available as PDF images upon request.
- 4.6 The display formats referred to above and the interpretation categories are discussed in the summary technical information section at the end of this report.

5 Survey Results

Gradiometer Survey (Figure 4)

- 5.1 The gradiometer survey data is displayed in Figure 4 at a display range of -15 to +20nT. The data is dominated by magnetic disturbance. This results from metal objects located throughout the graveyard. The magnetic disturbance is significant and would mask any responses of potential archaeological interest. No archaeological interpretation of the gradiometer results can be provided.

Resistance Survey (Figures 5-7)

- 5.2 In the south of the data there is a clear area of high resistance (1). Although this has no clear form, the response is considered to be of potential interest. The high resistance readings suggest possible structural, or rubble remains. It is possible that a former building was located here.
- 5.3 Further high resistance responses (2) are to the north of (1). Although these are too small to represent a building, they are considered to be of potential interest. These could represent associated structural features.
- 5.4 A further high resistance response (3) in the north of the data may be associated with an adjacent low resistance response (4). The low resistance response (4) could represent a pit-type feature. Although interpretation is unclear, these responses are considered to be of archaeological potential.
- 5.5 High resistance responses (5) run along the northern boundary. Although it is possible that they represent rubble or structural remains, it is equally likely that they result from the current boundary of the graveyard site. Interpretation is cautious.
- 5.6 A curvilinear trend (6) appears to run in the north-east of the data. This is adjacent to a tarmac entrance and modern building. Although it is possible that the trend (6) results from more recent activity, an archaeological interpretation can also be considered. It is possible that the trend represents a former curvilinear boundary ditch associated with the ecclesiastical site. Although this interpretation is tentative it must be considered.
- 5.7 A further curvilinear trend (7) is evident and appears to show some correlation with a topographical feature observed during fieldwork. It is possible that this represents a boundary feature associated with the ecclesiastical site. The trend is barely discernible in the data and interpretation is cautious.
- 5.8 Linear trends (8) have no clear pattern. However, it is possible that they represent internal divisions within the ecclesiastical site. This interpretation is cautious but must be considered.

6 Discussion & Conclusion

- 6.1 The resistance survey has identified a clear area of high resistance in the south of the data that is considered to be of interest. The resistance readings are indicative of a spread of structural or rubble material. It is possible that the remains of a former structure are represented here.
- 6.2 In the north of the data there is another area of high resistance which appears to be associated with a broad spread of low resistance readings. The low resistance may represent the remains of a large pit feature. This interpretation is cautious as the responses are adjacent to the current site entrance and modern building. It is equally possible that the responses represent more recent activity.
- 6.3 At the northeastern extent of the survey there is a faint curvilinear trend. Again, this is adjacent to a modern structure and may result from more recent activity. However, it is possible that the remains of an outer enclosure for the ecclesiastical site have been recorded. The trend is c.28m from the church remains. This interpretation is speculative but must be considered.
- 6.4 A further curvilinear trend appears to correlate with a low topographical bank identified during fieldwork. This is located c.12m from the church and could represent the remains of an internal curvilinear boundary feature.
- 6.5 Further faint linear trends are evident but have no clear pattern or form. It is possible that these represent internal divisions within the ecclesiastical enclosure. This is speculative but must be considered.
- 6.6 Consultation with a licensed archaeologist and with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is recommended to establish if any additional archaeological works are required.

7 Technical Information Section

Instrumentation & Methodology

Detailed Gradiometer Survey

Detailed gradiometer survey can either be targeted across a specific area of interest or conducted as a blanket survey across an entire application area, often as a standalone methodology.

Sampling methodologies can vary but a typical survey is conducted with a sample interval of 0.25m and a traverse interval of 1m. This allows detection of potential archaeological responses. Data is often collected in grids measuring 40m x 40m, with the data displayed accordingly. A more detailed survey methodology may be applied where archaeological remains are thought likely. This can sometimes produce results with a more detailed resolution. A survey with a grid size of 20m x 20m and a traverse interval of 0.5m will provide a data set with high resolution.



Bartington GRAD 601-2

The Bartington Grad 601-2 instrument is a specifically designed gradiometer for use in archaeological prospection. The gradiometer operates with a dual sensor capacity making survey very fast and effective. The sensors have a separation of 1m allowing greater sensitivity.

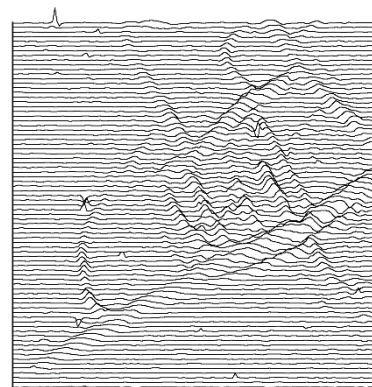


Frequent realignment of the instruments and zero drift correction ensure a constant high quality of data. Extremely sensitive, these instruments can detect variations in soil magnetism to 0.1nT, affording diverse application throughout a variety of archaeological, soil morphological and geological conditions.

Gradiometer Data Display & Presentation

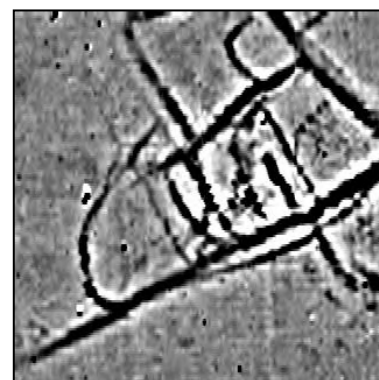
XY Trace

The data are presented as a series of linear traces, enabling a semi-profile display of the respective anomalies along the X and Y-axes. This display option is essential for distinguishing between modern ferrous materials (buried metal debris) and potential archaeological responses. The XY trace plot provides a linear display of the magnitude of the response within a given data set.



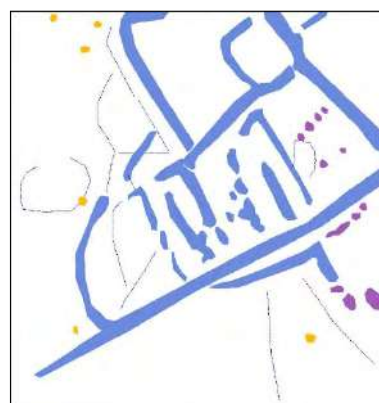
Greyscale*

As with dot density plots, the greyscale format assigns a cell to each datum according to its location on the grid. The display of each data point is conducted at very fine increments, allowing the full range of values to be displayed within the given data set. This display method also enables the identification of discrete responses that may be at the limits of instrument detection. In the summary diagrams processed, interpolated data is presented. Raw un-interpolated data is presented in the archive drawings along with the xy-trace plots.



Interpretation

An interpretation of the data is made using many of the plots presented in the final report, in addition to examination of the raw and processed data. The project managers' knowledge and experience allow a detailed interpretation of the survey results with respect to archaeological potential.



**XY Trace and raw greyscale plots are presented in archive form for display of the raw survey data. Summary greyscale images of the interpolated data are included for presentation purposes and to assist interpretation. The archive plots are provided as PDF images upon request.*

Electrical Resistance

The technique is used to record variations in electrical resistance by passing an electrical current through the ground. The standard instrument for archaeological investigations is a twin-probe array of mobile and remote electrodes maintained at a distance of about 20m.



The mobile electrodes (one current and one potential, usually 1m apart) are mounted on a survey frame and connected to a Geoscan RM85 resistance meter, which records the specific resistance of the soil (measured in ohms).

The resistance meter is connected to the pair of remote probes (one current and one potential), which remain in a fixed location. Data are collected as the survey frame and mobile probes reach each designated sample interval. Survey was undertaken at 1 m sample intervals along 1 m traverses (i.e., 400 readings per 20m x 20m grid). The adaptability of the instrument enables increased sampling intervals, as well as a range of probe separations and arrays to operate at varying depth penetration.

Data Display & Presentation

Greyscale

The greyscale format assigns a cell to each datum according to its location on the grid. The display of each data point is conducted at very fine increments, allowing the selected range of values to be displayed within the given data set. This display method also enables the identification of discrete responses that may be at the limits of instrument detection.



High Pass Filter

The data can be processed to enhance readings of interest. A High Pass Filter is commonly applied to increase the contrast of the responses with the natural background readings. The High Pass Filter can often emphasize responses of particular archaeological interest.



Glossary of Interpretation Terms

Categories of responses may vary for different data sets. The list below are the most commonly used categories for describing geophysical responses, as presented in the summary interpretation diagrams.

Archaeology

This category refers to responses which are interpreted as of clear archaeological potential and are supported by further archaeological evidence such as aerial photography or excavation. The term is generally associated with significant concentrations of former settlement, such as ditched enclosures, pits and associated features.

?Archaeology

This term corresponds to anomalies that display typical archaeological patterns where no record of comparative archaeological evidence is available. In some cases, it may prove difficult to distinguish between these and evidence of more recent activity also visible in the data.

Area of Increased Magnetic Response

These responses often lack any distinctive archaeological form, and it is therefore difficult to assign any specific interpretation. The resulting responses are site specific, possibly associated with concentrations of archaeological debris or more recent disturbance to underlying archaeological features.

Trend

This category refers to low-level magnetic responses barely visible above the magnetic background of the soil. Interpretation is tentative, as these anomalies are often at the limits of instrument detection.

Ploughing/Ridge & Furrow

Visible as a series of linear responses, these anomalies equate with recent or archaeological cultivation activity.

?Natural

A broad response resulting from localised natural variations in the magnetic background of the subsoil; presenting as broad amorphous responses most likely resulting from geological features.

Ferrous Response

These anomalies exhibit a typically strong magnetic response, often referred to as 'iron spikes,' and are the result of modern metal debris located within the topsoil.

Area of Magnetic Disturbance

This term refers to large-scale magnetic interference from existing services or structures. The extent of this interference may in some cases obscure anomalies of potential archaeological interest.

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List of Figures

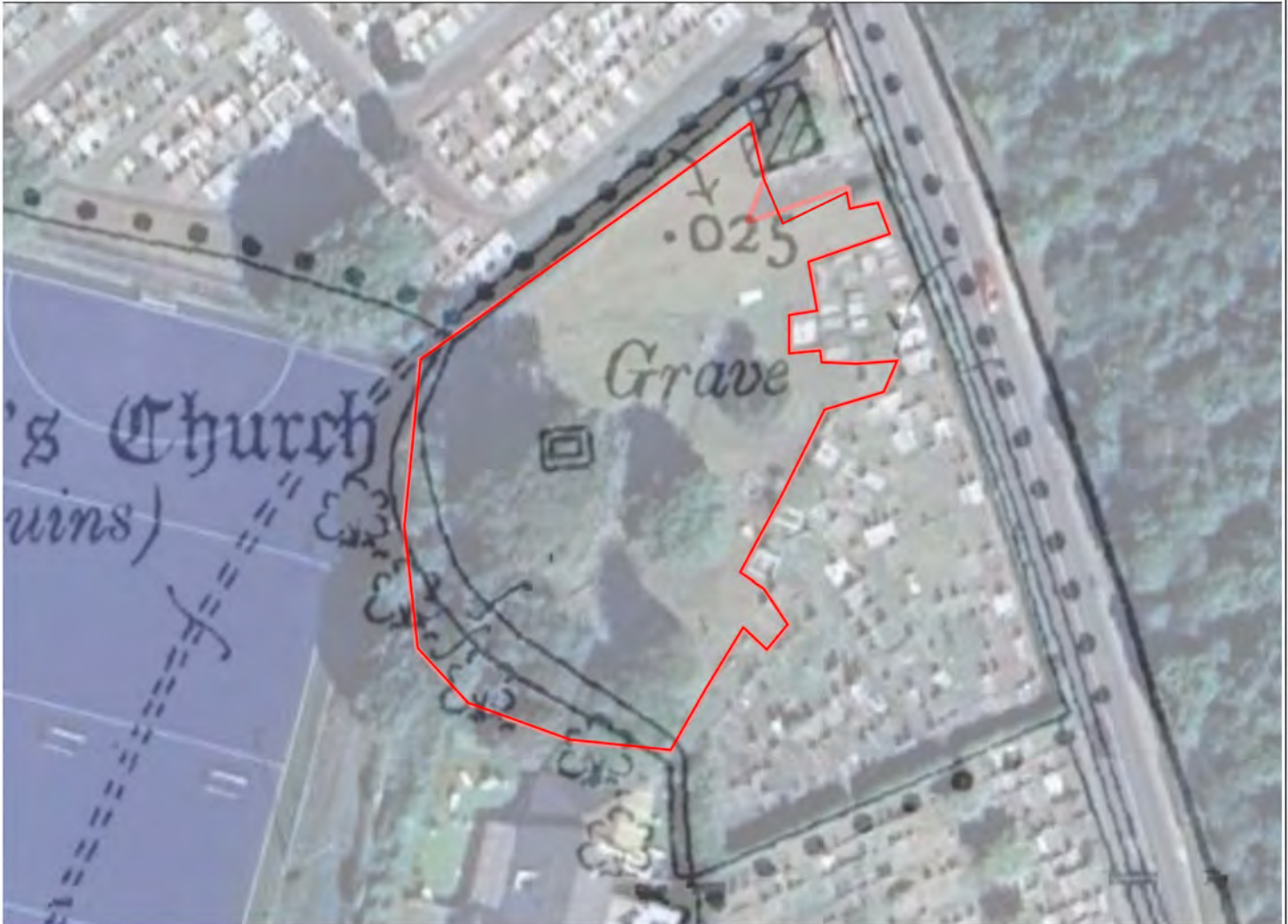
Figure	Description	Scale
Figure 1	Site location diagram	1:750
Figure 2	Survey location with 25 inch map overlay	1:750
Figure 3	Survey location with sketch map	1:300
Figure 4	Gradiometer Data: Greyscale image	1:300
Figure 5	Resistance Raw Data: Greyscale image	1:300
Figure 6	Resistance Processed Data: Greyscale image	1:300
Figure 7	Resistance Data: Interpretation	1:300



Application Area

0 metres 30

Client: IAC Ltd.	Project: Geophysical Survey St Fintan's Church & Graveyard, County Dublin	Title: Site Location	 J.M. Leigh Surveys Ltd. www.jmlsurveys.com	Scale @ A4: 1:750 Figure: 1 Licence No.: 24R0438 Issue Date: 06.09.2024
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Application Area

0 metres 30

Client:

IAC Ltd.

Project:

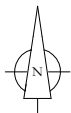
Geophysical Survey
St Fintan's Church &
Graveyard, County Dublin

Title:

Site Location with 25inch
Mapping Overlay

 **J.M. Leigh
Surveys Ltd.**
www.jmlsurveys.com

Scale @ A4: 1:750
Figure: 2
Licence No.: 24R0438
Issue Date: 06.09.2024



Graveyard

Path

R105

Graves and vegetation

Railings

Church

DU015-031002

Graveyard
DU015-031003

Ecclesiastical Enclosure

DU015-031001

Boundary depicted in 25inch historic
mapping

0 metres 12



Application Area



Detailed
Geophysical Survey



possible
topographic banked
feature



Grave plot



Headstone / Grave
marker

Client:

IAC Ltd.

Project:

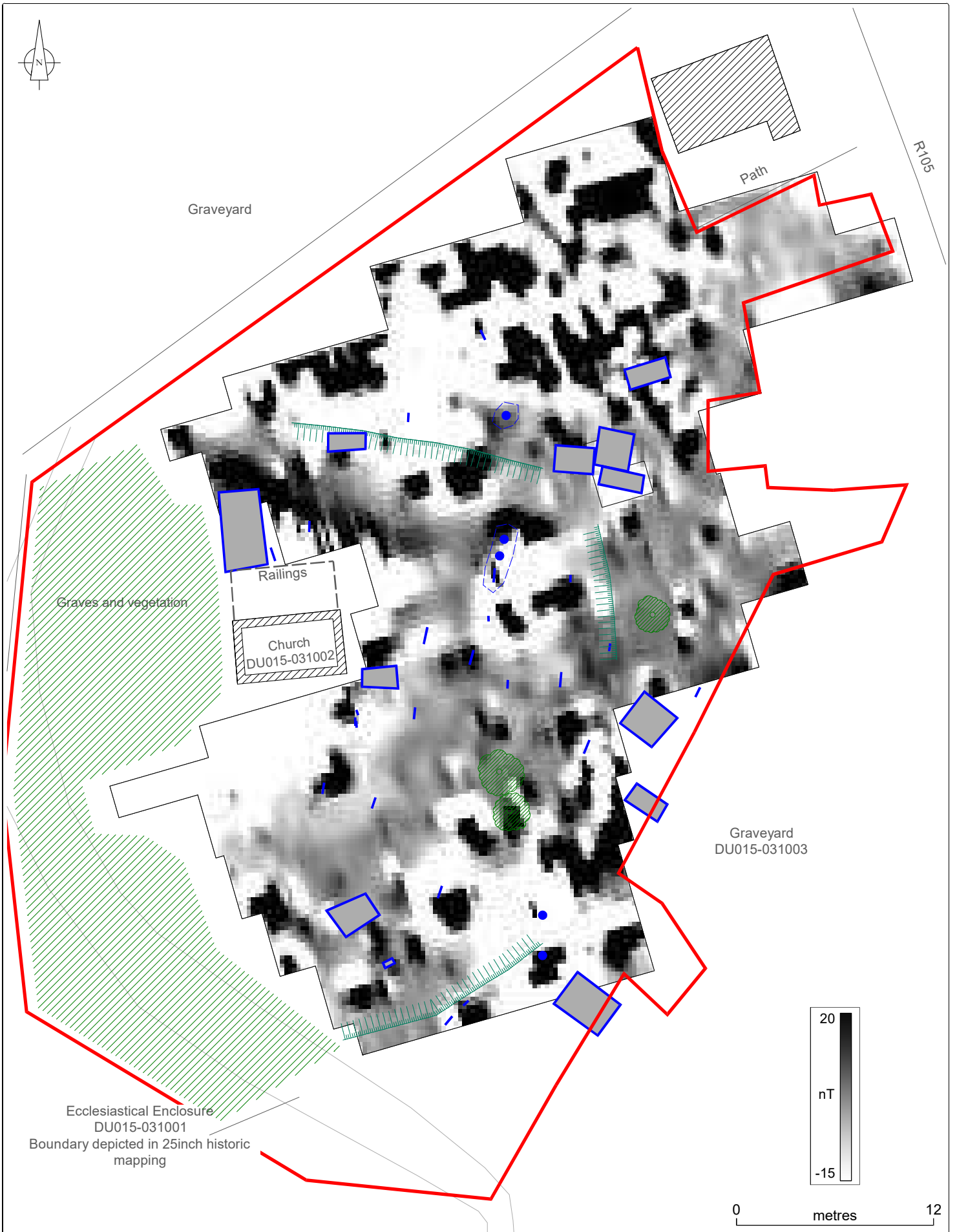
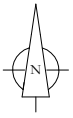
Geophysical Survey
St Fintan's Church &
Graveyard, County Dublin

Title:

Survey Location with
sketch map

**J.M. Leigh
Surveys Ltd.**
www.jmlsurveys.com

Scale @ A4: 1:300
Figure: 3
Licence No.: 24R0438
Issue Date: 06.09.2024



Application Area



Grave plot



Headstone / Grave marker

Client:

IAC Ltd.

Project:

Geophysical Survey
St Fintan's Church &
Graveyard, County Dublin

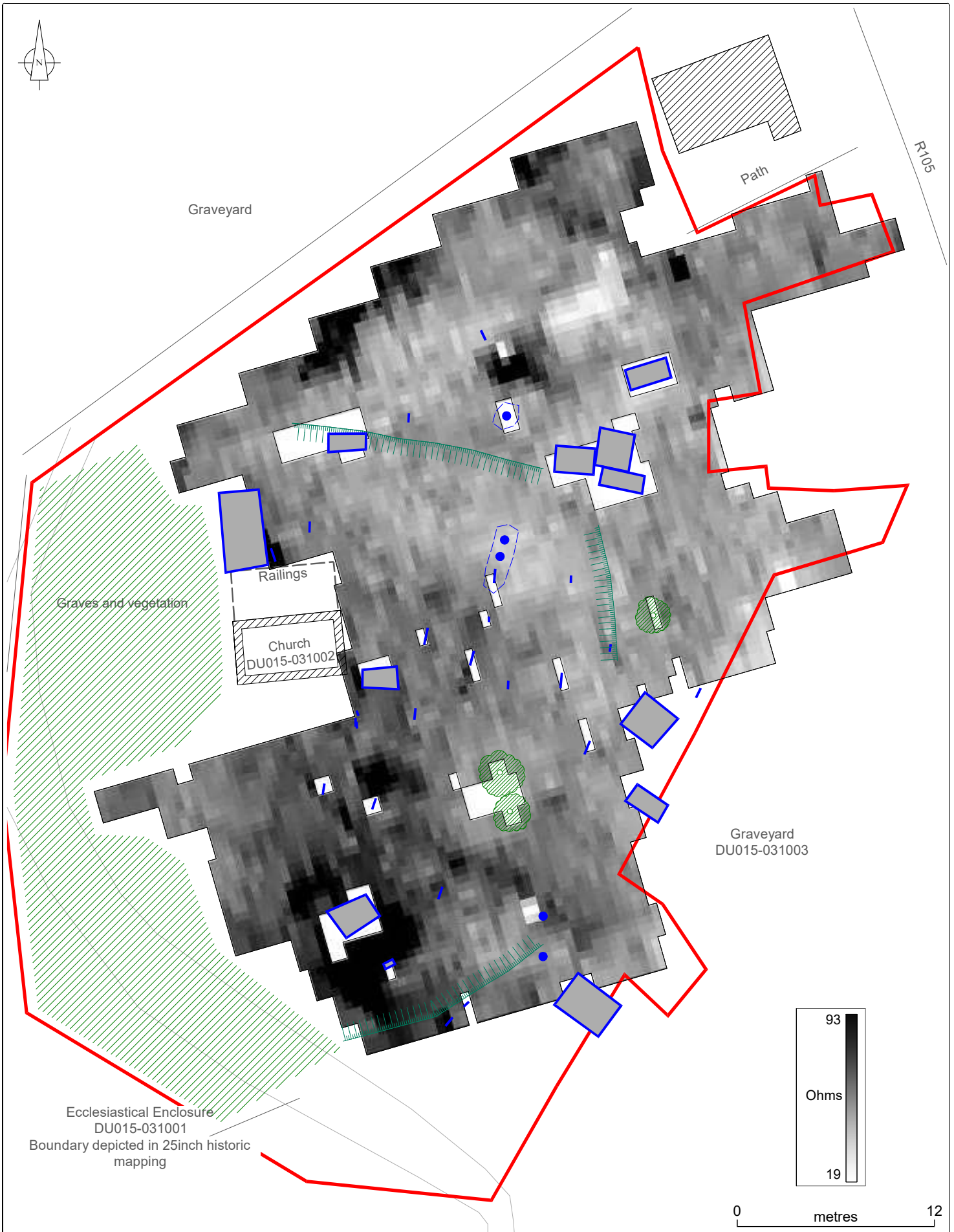
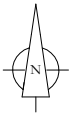
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Gradiometer Survey
Summary Greyscale Image



J.M. Leigh
Surveys Ltd.
www.jmlsurveys.com

Scale @ A4: 1:300
Figure: 4
Licence No.: 24R0438
Issue Date: 06.09.2024



Application Area



Grave plot



Headstone / Grave marker



possible
topographic bank
feature

Client:

IAC Ltd.

Project:

Geophysical Survey
St Fintan's Church &
Graveyard, County Dublin

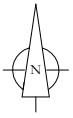
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Resistance Survey
Raw data:
Summary Greyscale Image



J.M. Leigh
Surveys Ltd.
www.jmlsurveys.com

Scale @ A4: 1:300
Figure: 5
Licence No.: 24R0438
Issue Date: 06.09.2024



Graveyard

Path

R105

Graves and vegetation

Railings

Church
DU015-031002

Graveyard
DU015-031003

Ecclesiastical Enclosure
DU015-031001

Boundary depicted in 25inch historic
mapping

2.0
SD
-2.0

0 metres 12



Application Area



Grave plot



Headstone / Grave
marker



possible
topographic bank
feature

Client:

IAC Ltd.

Project:

Geophysical Survey
St Fintan's Church &
Graveyard, County Dublin

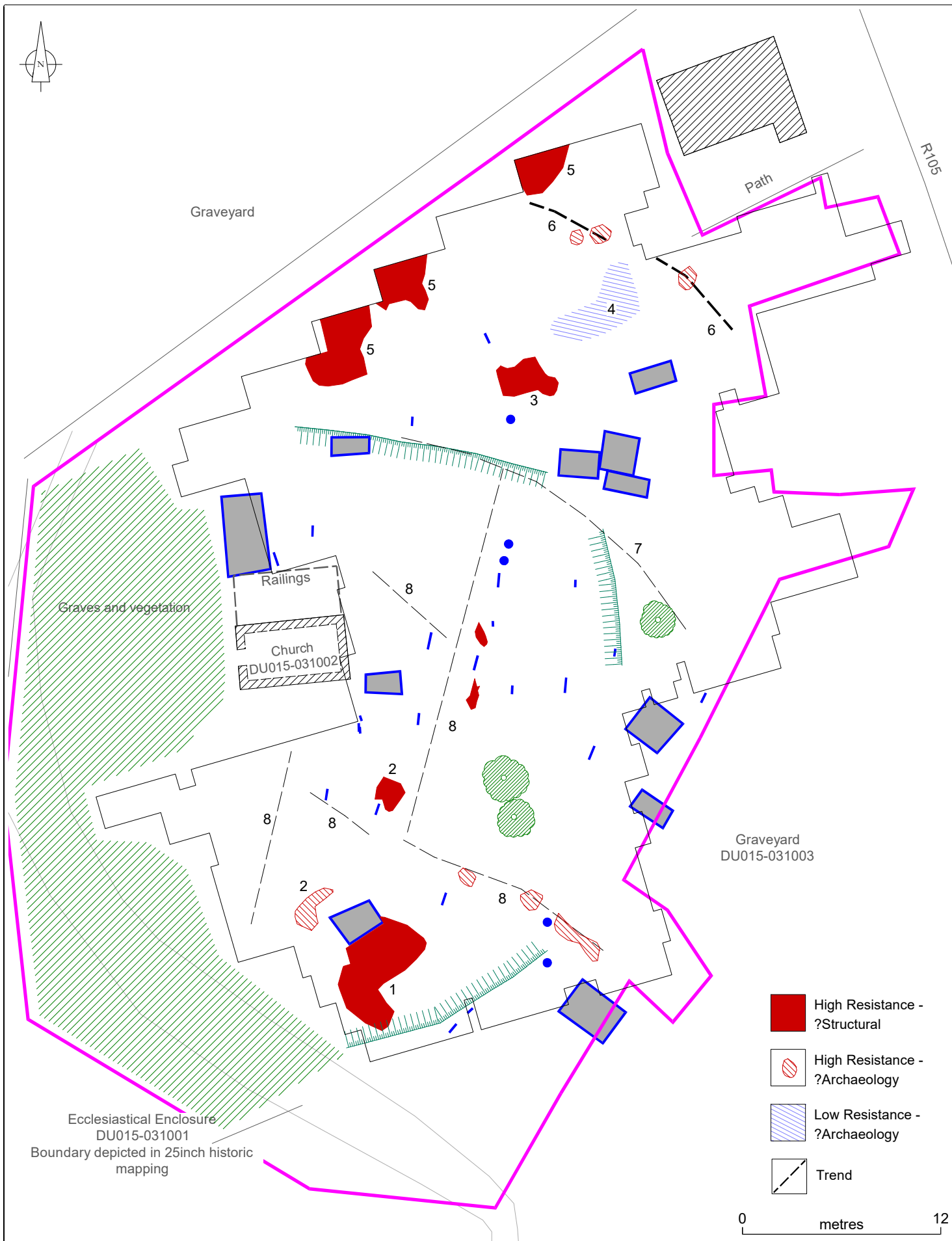
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Resistance Survey
Processed data:
Summary Greyscale Image



J.M. Leigh
Surveys Ltd.
www.jmlsurveys.com

Scale @ A4: 1:300
Figure: 6
Licence No.: 24R0438
Issue Date: 06.09.2024



Application Area



Grave plot



Headstone / Grave marker



possible
topographic bank
feature

Client:

IAC Ltd.

Project:

Geophysical Survey
St Fintan's Church &
Graveyard, County Dublin

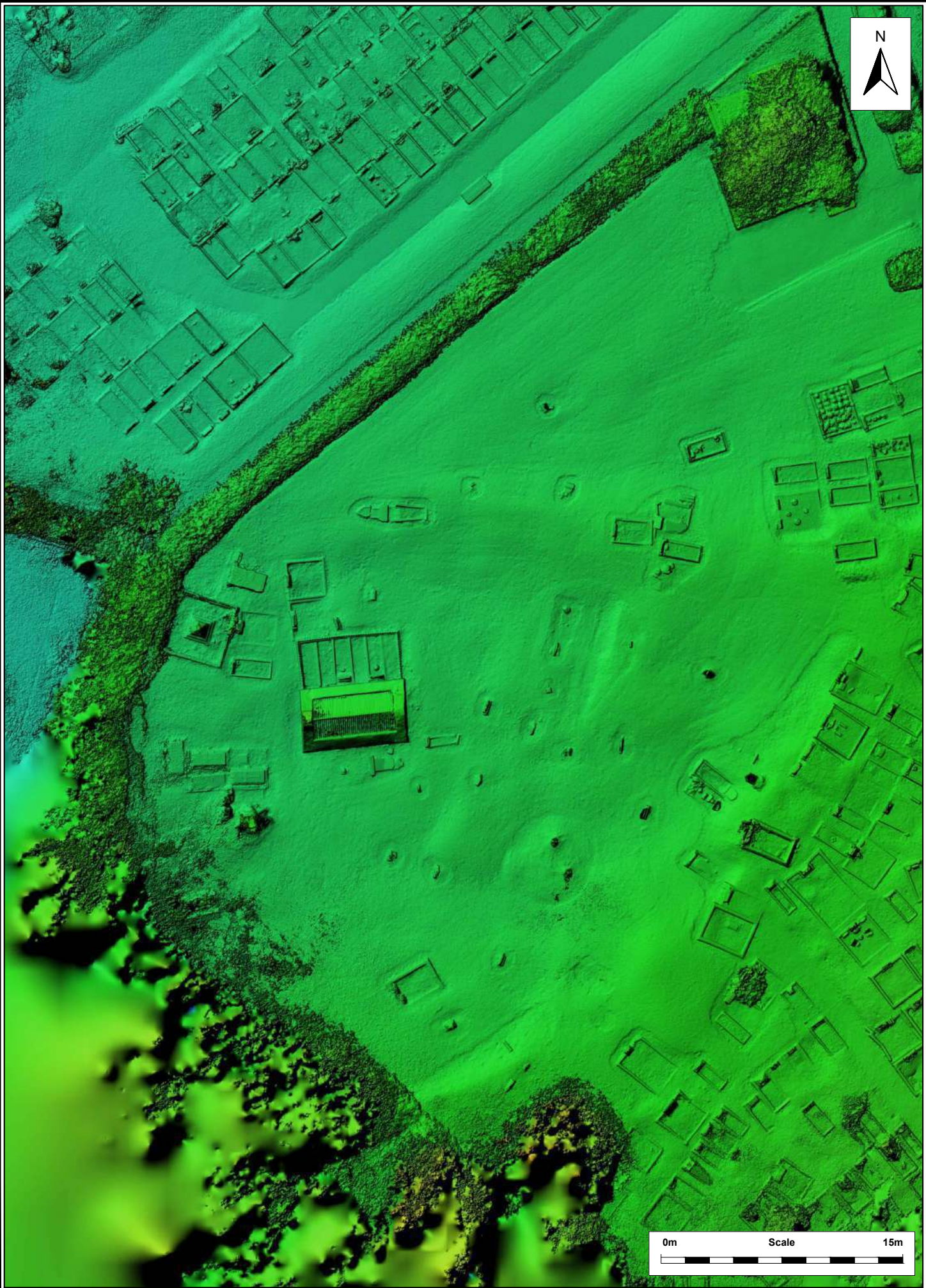
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Interpretation

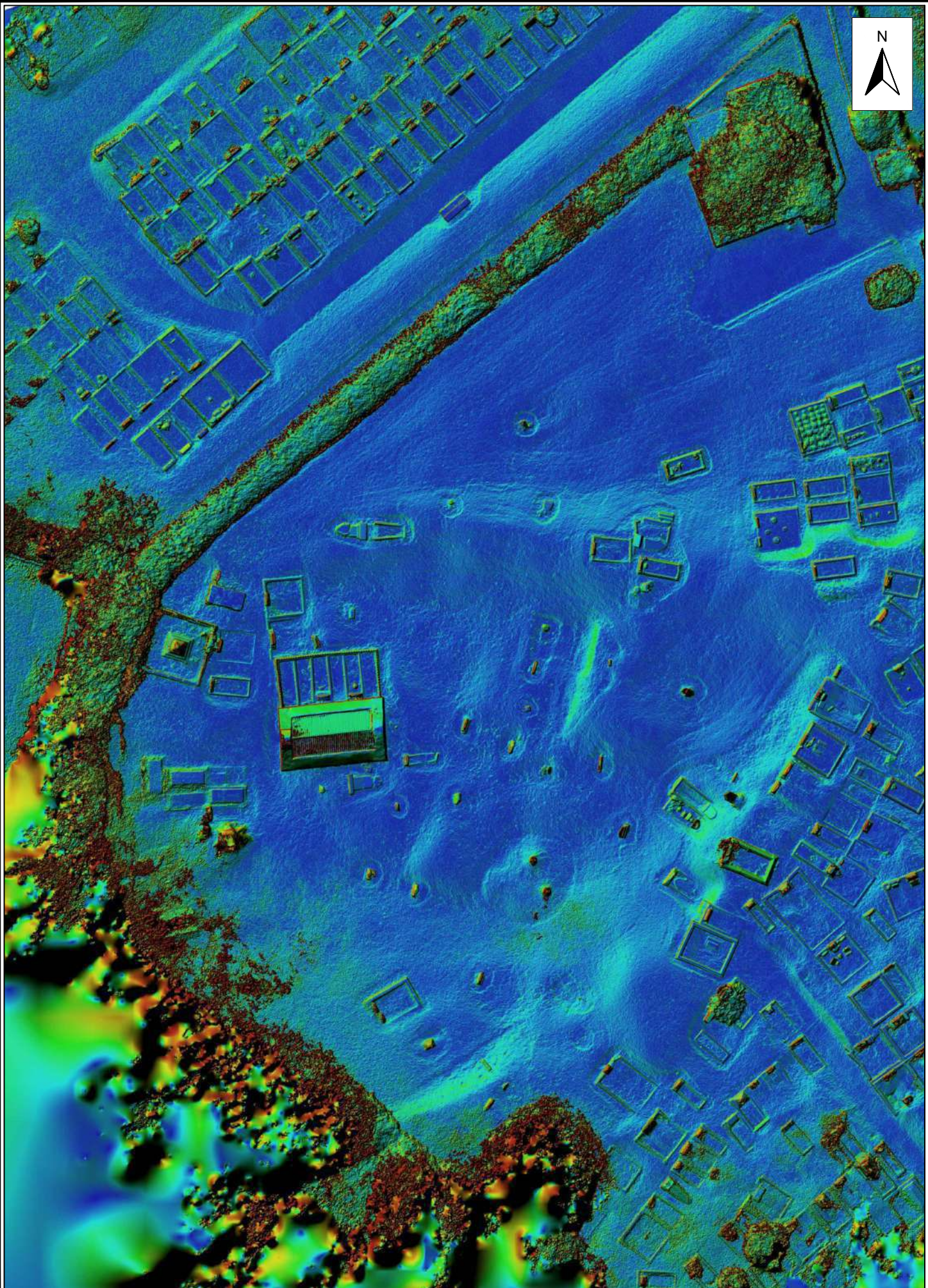
J.M. Leigh
Surveys Ltd.
www.jmlsurveys.com

Scale @ A4: 1:300
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Licence No.: 24R0438
Issue Date: 06.09.2024

APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAMMETRY AND DIGITAL ELEVATION MODELS



Title	D	Scale	A	Drawn by	R
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				Fig. .	Rev. .



IAC Archaeology

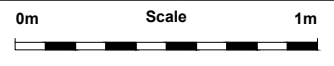
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		Job no.	J	Approved by PD	
				Fig. .	Rev. .



0m Scale 1m

IAC Archaeology

Title	Plan o St Fintan Chrch	Scale	A	Drawn by	R
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				Approved by	PD
		Job no.	J	Fig.	2.3 Rev. .



IAC Archaeology

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Project	St Fintan Chrch owth Co. Dblin	Date	..	Checked by	EL
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		Job no.	J	Fig.	2,4 Rev. .



20th Century

18th Century

20th Century

15th Century

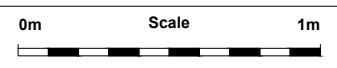
11th Century

11th Century

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35.69

33.00

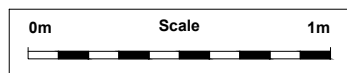


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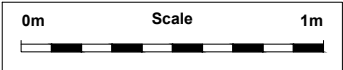
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				Fig.	2.5
				Rev.	-



+



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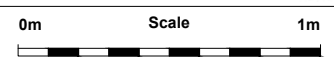
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					Approved by	PD
			Job no.	J4389	Fig.	2.7
					Rev.	-

Perspective 3D

Sept. Aug. 20



Image: 77,423,581 version: 30,711,805



IAC Archaeology

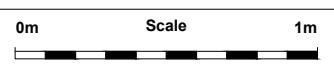
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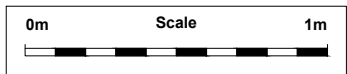
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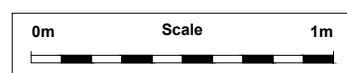


IAC Archaeology

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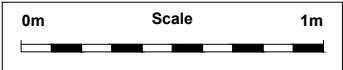


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IAC Archaeology

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APPENDIX 3 CONSERVATION ENGINEER REPORT

PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS

ITEM 1 (External West Elevation): RAKE OUT EXISTING SAND: CEMENT POINTING TO WEST ELEVATION AND REPOINT TO AN ASSUMED DEPTH OF 30mm.

TOTAL ASSUMED AREA: 15m² INCLUDING INTERNAL FACE OF OPES

ITEM 2 (West Doorway): RAKE OUT FINE JOINTS TO REVEAL OF DOOR OPENING TO DEPTH OF APPROXIMATELY 20mm. AREA: 2m² APPROX.

ITEM 3 (SOUTH FACE OF BELTOWER): RAKE OUT EXISTING SAND: CEMENT POINTING TO SOUTH ELEVATION OF BELLTOWER TO EAVES LEVEL TO AN ASSUMED DEPTH OF 30mm.

TOTAL ASSUMED AREA: 4m²

ITEM 4: (NORTH FACE OF BELTOWER): RAKE OUT EXISTING SAND: CEMENT POINTING TO NORTH ELEVATION OF BELLTOWER TO EAVES TO AN ASSUMED DEPTH OF 30mm.

TOTAL ASSUMED AREA: 4m²

ITEM 5 (TOP OF EXTERNAL WEST ELEVATION): RAKE OUT CEMENT RICH SAND: CEMENT POINTING ABOVE BLACK DPC LINE TO EXTERNAL GABLE (SHOWN BLUE ON ELEVATION) TO ASSUMED DEPTH OF 30mm AND REPOINT IN AN NHL3.5 MIX. TOTAL AREA:

ITEM 6 (EAST GABLE CUT WINDOW) : RAKE OUT FINE JOINTS TO PERIMETER AND JOINTS TO REVEAL STONES OF WINDOW OPENING TO DEPTH OF 20mm-50mm. AREA: 2m² APPROX 1.5m²

ITEM 7 (SOUTH SIDE OF EAST GABLE/ PARAPET) RAKE OUT EXISTING SAND: CEMENT POINTING TO SOUTH ELEVATION OF EAST GABLE TO AN ASSUMED DEPTH OF 30mm.

TOTAL ASSUMED AREA: 3m²

ITEM 8 (NORTH SIDE OF EAST GABLE/ PARAPET) RAKE OUT EXISTING SAND: CEMENT POINTING TO SOUTH ELEVATION OF EAST GABLE TO AN ASSUMED DEPTH OF 30mm.

TOTAL ASSUMED AREA: 3m²

ITEM 9 (SOUTH ELEVATION NEAR EAVES): RAKE OUT SAND: CEMENT 1990S MORTAR AND REPOINT IN AN NHL 3.5 HYDRAULIC LIME MORTAR ABOVE DPC LINE. AREA: 3m² APPROX.

ITEM 10 (EAST END OF SOUTH EAVES): ALLOW FOR REMOVAL OF BOLSTERED ASSUMED 30mm THICK SAND: CEMENT HAUNCHING (TOTAL AREA: 1.5m² & 150 DEPTH OF STONE). ALLOW FOR REBUILDING 1m² X 300 AVERAGE DEPTH STONE IN AN NHL 3.5 BEDDING AND

POINTING MIX. PROVIDE A 3 LAYERED NHL3.5 MIX HAUNCHING TO MATCH THE FINISH OF THE EXISTING SAND: CEMENT

ITEM 10A: (1990s BUILD UP TO NORTH AND SOUTH EAVES) PROVISIONAL ONLY:
REMOVE EXISTING SAND: CEMENT HAUNCHING & 1990S STONework TO NORTH AND SOUTH EAVES AS FAR AS DPC LINE AND AVERAGE 650mm DEPTH X 950 WIDTH OF SAND: CEMENT BEDDED STONE (5.1m LENGTH e/s) AND ALLOW FOR REBUILDING IN AN NHL 3.5 BEDDING MIX. USING SELECTED HOWTH QUARTZ WITH A 3 LAYERED NHL3.5 MIX HAUNCHING TO A SELECTED FINISH

ITEM 11 (NORTH ELEVATION NEAR EAVES): RAKE OUT SAND: CEMENT 1990S MORTAR AND REPOINT IN AN NHL 3.5 HYDRAULIC LIME MORTAR ABOVE DPC LINE. AREA: 3m² APPROX.

ITEM 12 (NORTH ELEVATION WEST CUT WINDOW): RAKE OUT FINE JOINTS TO PERIMETER AND JOINTS TO REVEAL STONES OF WINDOW OPENING TO DEPTH OF 20mm-50mm. AREA: 1m² APPROX

ITEM 13 (NORTH ELEVATION EAST CUT WINDOW): RAKE OUT FINE JOINTS TO PERIMETER AND JOINTS TO REVEAL STONES OF WINDOW OPENING TO DEPTH OF 20mm-50mm. AREA: 1m² APPROX.

ITEM 14: (CRACK TO CENTRE OF NORTH ELEVATION): ALLOW FOR RAKING OUT TO TOTAL DEPTH OF UP TO 100mm TO EACH FACE OF VERTICAL FISSURE REMOVING ANY REMAINING VEGETATION & ROOTS. PACK AND REPOINT TO FULL 100mm DEPTH IN AN NHL3.5 MIX

ITEM 15 (INTERNAL EAVES REPOINTING- NOT REQUIRED WITH OPTION 10a): ALLOW FOR SELECTED RAKING OUT TO TOTAL DEPTH OF UP TO 40mm OF 1990S SAND CEMENT POINTING TO DEPTH OF 30mm TO INTERNAL SURFACES OF REBUILT EAVES OF NORTH AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS. TOTAL AREA: 10m² APPROX.

ITEM 16: (INTERNAL WALLS REPOINTING ALLOWANCE) ALLOW FOR SELECTED RAKING OUT & REPOINTING WITH AN NHL3.5 TO A TOTAL DEPTH OF UP 30mm TO SELECTED INTERNAL SURFACES. TOTAL AREA: 12m² APPROX

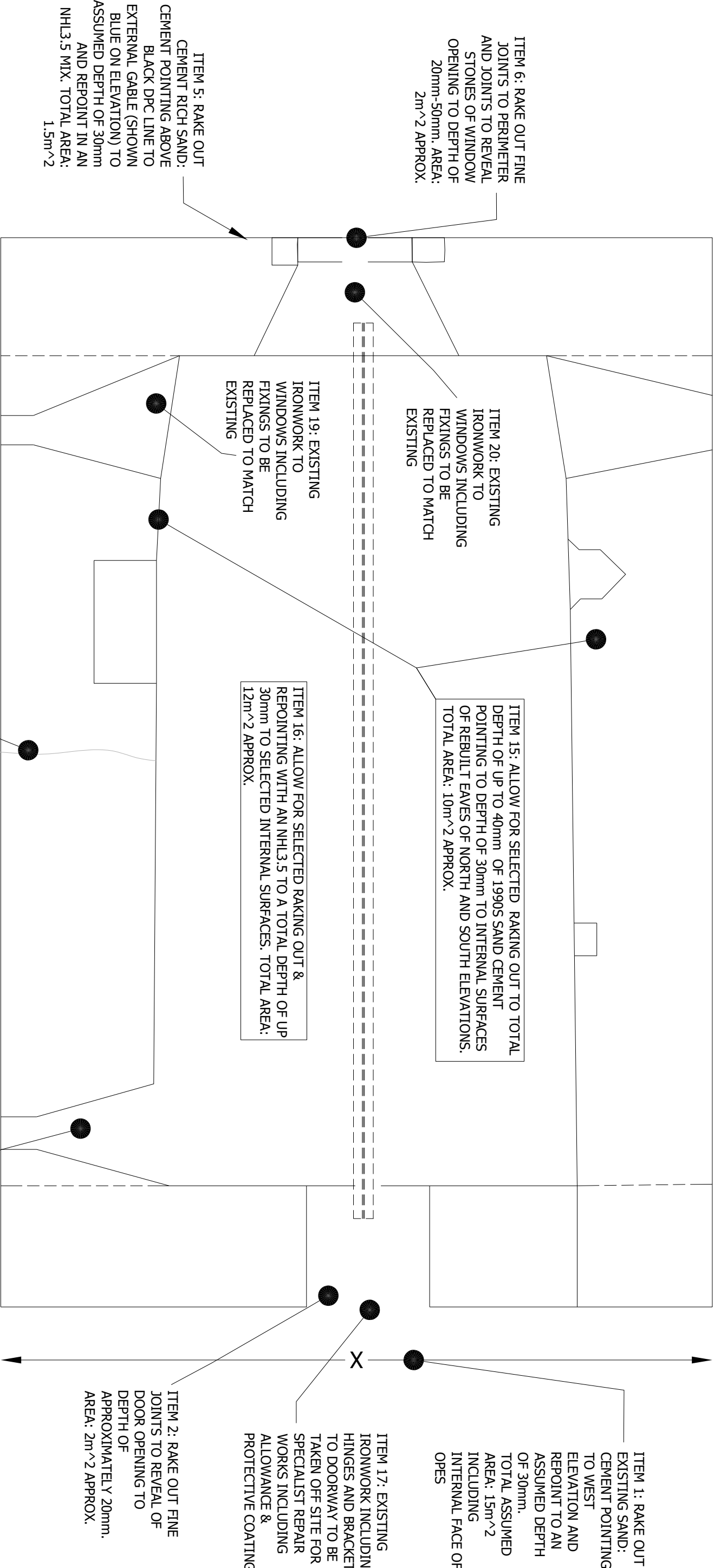
ITEM 17: (IRON WORK TO WEST ENTRANCE GATE) EXISTING IRONWORK INCLUDING HINGES AND BRACKETS TO DOORWAY TO BE TAKEN OFF SITE FOR SPECIALIST REPAIR WORKS INCLUDING ALLOWANCE & PROTECTIVE COATING.

ITEM 18 (NORTH ELEVATION- WEST END WINDOW IRONWORK): EXISTING IRONWORK TO WINDOW INCLUDING FIXINGS TO BE REPLACED TO MATCH EXISTING

ITEM 19 (NORTH ELEVATION- EAST END WINDOW IRONWORK):: EXISTING IRONWORK TO WINDOWS INCLUDING FIXINGS TO BE REPLACED TO MATCH EXISTING

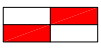
ITEM 20 (EAST GABLE INTERNAL WINDOW IRONWORK):: EXISTING IRONWORK TO WINDOWS INCLUDING FIXINGS TO BE REPLACED TO MATCH EXISTING

ITEM 21: NEW GALVANISED STEEL FRAME ETCHED PRIMED AND PAINTED TO DETAIL TO REPLACE EXISTING CORRODED FRAME. DETAIL TO LATER DATE



SAINT FINTANS
PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN (1:25)

REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHKD/APPR.

	
David Maher & Associates	
Civil, Structural & Conservation Engineers	
12 Portobello road, Dublin 8	
Tel 007 6185140 e-mail: info@davidmaher.net	

SAINT FINTANS	
OUTLINE SURVEY	
PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR PLAN	
1:25	

Drawn	Scale	Drawing Number	Rev.
DPH	1:25	24D/96/101	
CKL	Date		
D.P.M.	12/11/2024		
SHADE			
TENDER (D1)			

ITEM 10A: PROVISIONAL ONLY:
REMOVE EXISTING SAND: CEMENT HAUNCHING & 1990S STONEMWORK TO NORTH
AND SOUTH EAVES AS FAR AS DPC LINE AND AVERAGE 650mm DEPTH X 950
WIDTH OF SAND: CEMENT BEDDED STONE (5.1m LENGTH e/s) AND ALLOW FOR
REBUILDING IN AN NHL 3.5 BEDDING MIX. USING SELECTED HOWTH QUARTZ
WITH A 3 LAYERED NHL3.5 MIX HAUNCHING TO A SELECTED FINISH

ITEM 7: RAKE OUT EXISTING SAND:
CEMENT POINTING TO SOUTH ELEVATION
OF EAST GABLE TO AN ASSUMED DEPTH
OF 30mm.
TOTAL ASSUMED AREA: 3m²

ITEM 21: NEW GALVANISED STEEL FRAME ETCHED PRIMED AND PAINTED TO DETAIL TO REPLACE EXISTING CORRODED FRAME. DETAIL TO LATER DATE

ITEM 3: RAKE OUT
EXISTING SAND:
CEMENT POINTING TO
SOUTH ELEVATION OF
BELTOWER TO EAVE
TO AN ASSUMED DEPTH
OF 30mm.
TOTAL ASSUMED AREA:
4m^2

ITEM 10: ALLOW FOR REMOVAL OF BOLSTERED ASSUMED 30mm THICK SAND. CEMENT HAUNCHING (TOTAL AREA: 1.5m^2 & 150 DEPTH OF STONE). ALLOW FOR REBUILDING 1m^2 X 300 AVERAGE DEPTH STONE IN AN NHL 3.5 BEDDING AND POINTING MIX. PROVIDE A 3 LAYERED NHL3.5 MIX HAUNCHING TO MATCH THE FINISH OF THE EXISTING SAND: CEMENT

ITEM 8: RAKE OUT EXISTING SAND. CEMENT POINTING TO NORTH ELEVATION OF EAST GABLE TO AN ASSUMED DEPTH OF 30mm. TOTAL ASSUMED AREA: 3m²

ITEM 4: RAKE OUT EXISTING SAND: CEMENT POINTING TO NORTH ELEVATION OF BELTOWER TO EAVES TO AN ASSUMED DEPTH OF 30mm. TOTAL ASSUMED AREA: 4m²

SAINT FINTANS
PROPOSED ROOF PLAN (1:25)

[illegible]

David Maher & Associates
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12 Portobello road, Dublin 8.
Tel 087 6185140 e-mail: info@davidmaher.net

SAINT FINTANS
OUTLINE SURVEY
PROPOSED PLAN AT ROOF LEVEL
1:25

Drawn	Scale	1:25	Drawing Number	24D/96/102	Revised
DPM					
Chkd	Date	12/11/2024			
D.P.M.					
Status					
TENDER (D1)					

ITEM 10A: PROVISIONAL ONLY:
REMOVE EXISTING SAND: CEMENT HAUNCHING & 1990S STONework TO NORTH AND SOUTH EAVES AS FAR AS DPC LINE AND AVERAGE 650mm DEPTH X 950 WIDTH OF SAND: CEMENT BEDDED STONE (5.1m LENGTH e/s) AND ALLOW FOR REBUILDING IN AN NHL 3.5 BEDDING MIX. USING SELECTED HOWTH QUARTZ WITH A 3 LAYERED NHL3.5 MIX HAUNCHING TO A SELECTED FINISH

CEMENT RICH SAND: CEMENT POINTING ABOVE BLACK DPC LINE (SHOWN BLUE HERE) RAKE OUT TO ASSUMED DEPTH OF 30mm FROM DPC LINE TO BTM OF CEMENT POINTING AND REPOINT IN AN NHL3.5 MIX

ITEM 21: NEW GALVANISED STEEL FRAME ETCHED PRIMED AND PAINTED TO DETAIL TO REPLACE EXISTING CORRODED FRAME. DETAIL TO LATER DATE

ITEM 8: RAKE OUT EXISTING SAND: CEMENT POINTING TO NORTH ELEVATION OF EAST GABLE TO AN ASSUMED DEPTH OF 30mm. TOTAL ASSUMED AREA: 3m^2

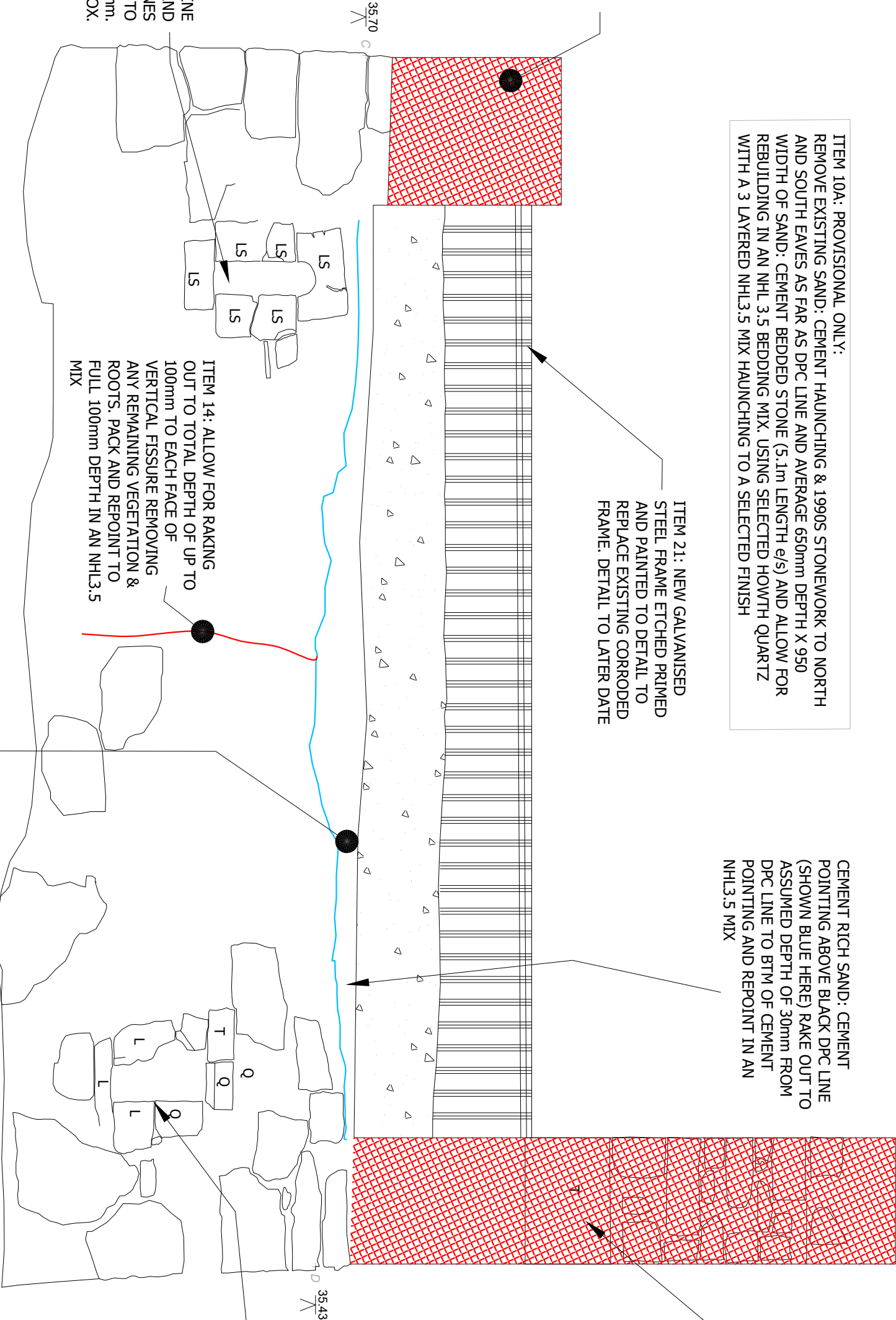
ITEM 4: RAKE OUT EXISTING SAND: CEMENT POINTING TO NORTH ELEVATION OF BELL TOWER TO EAVES TO AN ASSUMED DEPTH OF 30mm. TOTAL ASSUMED AREA: 4m^2

ITEM 12: RAKE OUT FINE JOINTS TO PERIMETER AND JOINTS TO REVEAL STONES OF WINDOW OPENING TO DEPTH OF 20mm-50mm. AREA: 1m^2 APPROX.

ITEM 13: RAKE OUT FINE JOINTS TO PERIMETER AND JOINTS TO REVEAL STONES OF WINDOW OPENING TO DEPTH OF 20mm-50mm. AREA: 1m^2 APPROX.

ITEM 14: ALLOW FOR RAKING OUT TO TOTAL DEPTH OF UP TO 100mm TO EACH FACE OF VERTICAL FISSURE REMOVING ANY REMAINING VEGETATION & ROOTS. PACK AND REPOINT TO FULL 100mm DEPTH IN AN NHL3.5 MIX

ITEM 11: RAKE OUT SAND: CEMENT 1990S MORTAR AND REPOINT IN AN NHL 3.5 HYDRAULIC LIME MORTAR ABOVE DPC LINE. AREA: 3m^2 APPROX.



David DPH		Scale 1:25	Drawing Number 24D/96/301		Rev.
CML D.P.M.		Date 12/11/2024	24D/96/301		
TENDER (01)					

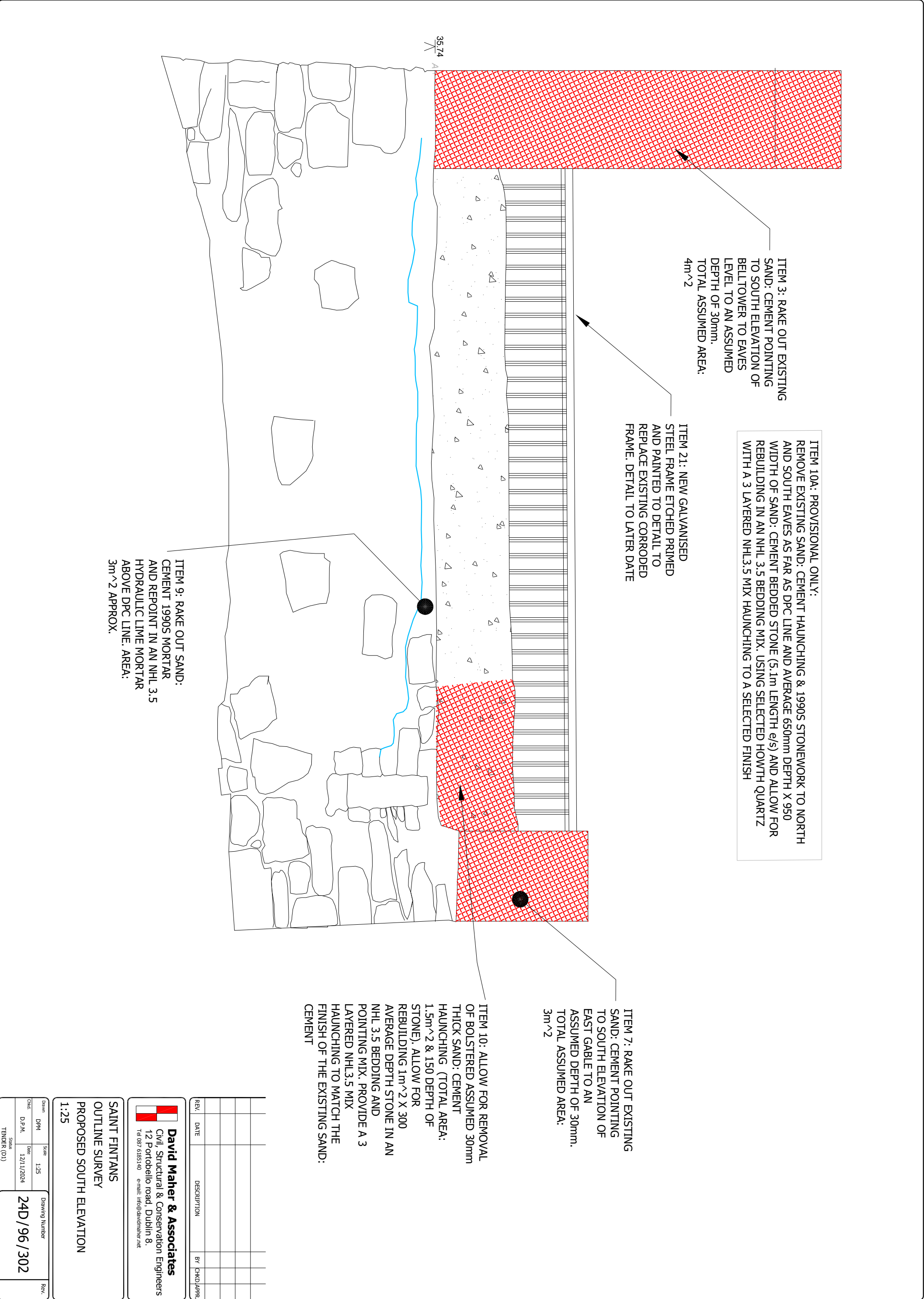
David Maher & Associates

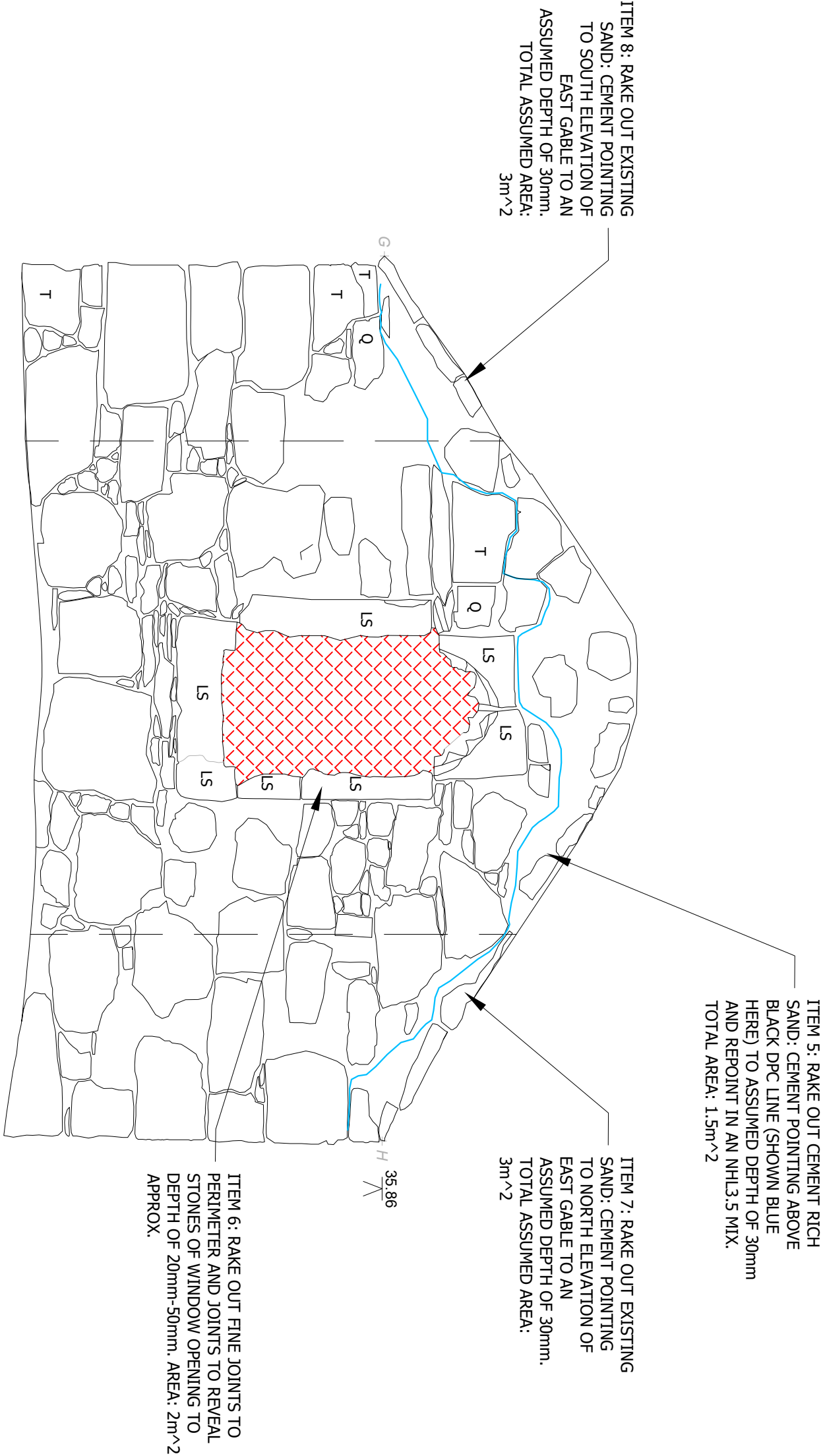
Civil, Structural & Conservation Engineers

12 Portobello road, Dublin 8

Tel 007 6155140 e-mail: info@davidmaher.net

SAINT FINTANS
OUTLINE SURVEY
PROPOSED NORTH ELEVATION
1:25





REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHKD	APPR.

David Maher & Associates
Civil, Structural & Conservation Engineers
12 Portobello road, Dublin 8
Tel 007 6155140 e-mail: info@davidmaher.net

SAINT FINTANS
OUTLINE SURVEY
PROPOSED EAST ELEVATION
1:25

Drawn	Scale	Drawing Number	Rev.
DPH	1:25	24D/96/303	
Chkd	Date		
D.P.M.	12/11/2024		
Scale			
TENDER (01)			

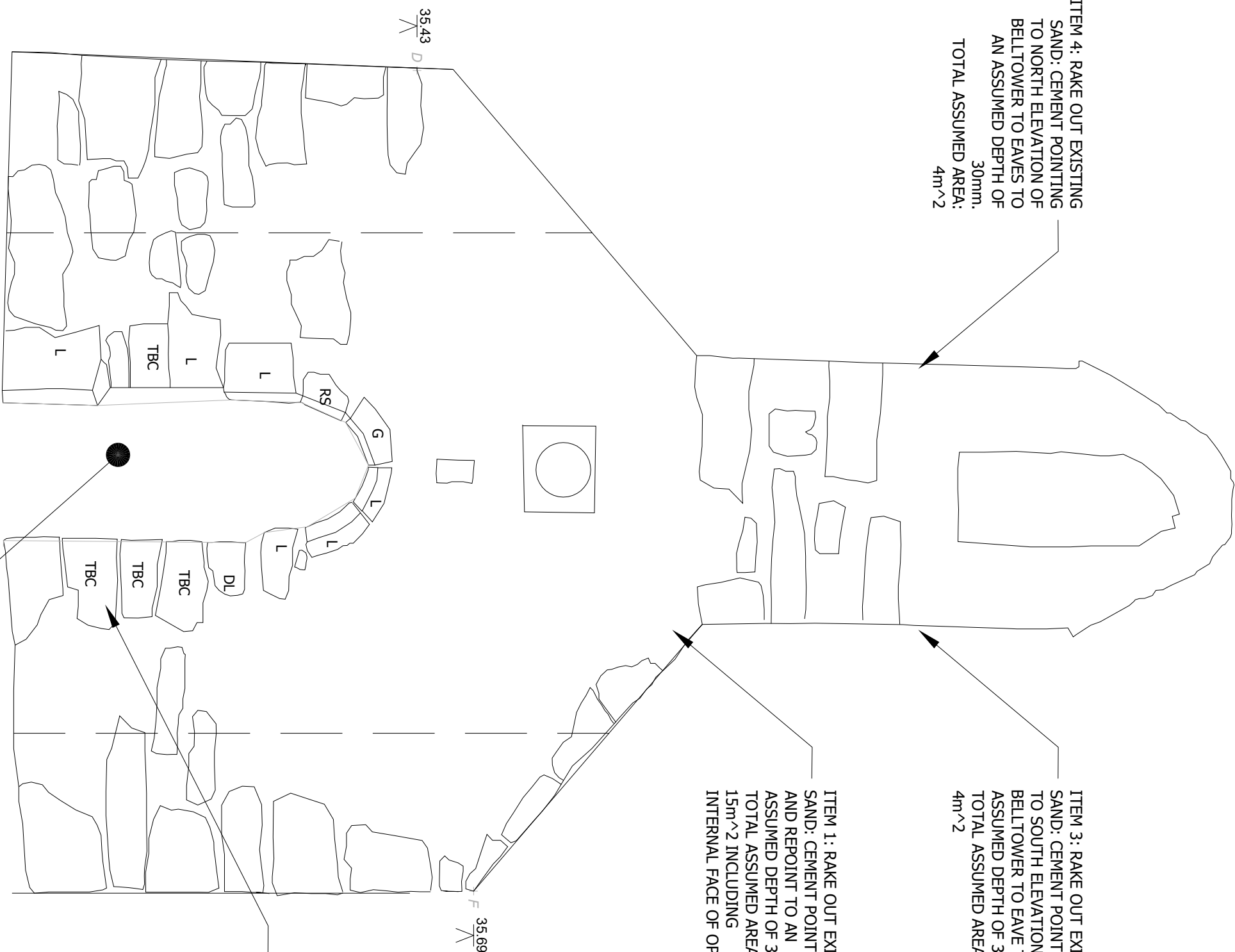
ITEM 4: RAKE OUT EXISTING SAND: CEMENT POINTING TO NORTH ELEVATION OF BELLTOWER TO EAVES TO AN ASSUMED DEPTH OF 30mm. TOTAL ASSUMED AREA: 4m^2

ITEM 3: RAKE OUT EXISTING SAND: CEMENT POINTING TO SOUTH ELEVATION OF BELLTOWER TO EAVE TO AN ASSUMED DEPTH OF 30mm. TOTAL ASSUMED AREA: 4m^2

ITEM 1: RAKE OUT EXISTING SAND: CEMENT POINTING AND REPOINT TO AN ASSUMED DEPTH OF 30mm. TOTAL ASSUMED AREA: 15m^2 INCLUDING INTERNAL FACE OF OPES

ITEM 2: RAKE OUT FINE JOINTS TO REVEAL OF DOOR OPENING TO DEPTH OF APPROXIMATELY 20mm. AREA: 2m^2 APPROX.

ITEM 17: EXISTING IRONWORK INCLUDING HINGES AND BRACKETS TO IRON DOOR (NOT SHOWN) TO BE TAKEN OFF SITE FOR SPECIALIST REPAIR WORKS INCLUDING ALLOWANCE & PROTECTIVE COATING



REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHKD	APPR.

David Maher & Associates

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12 Portobello road, Dublin 8

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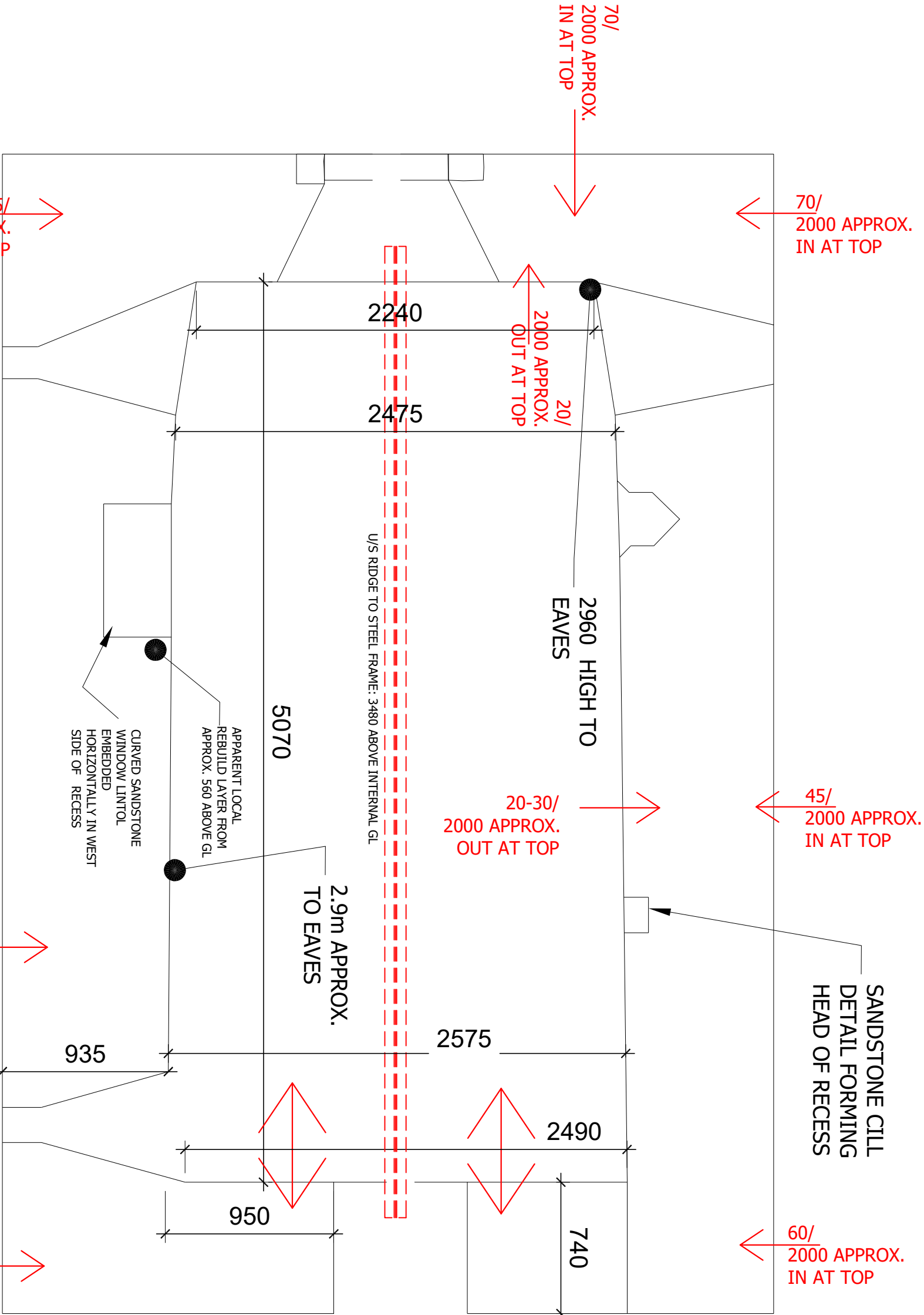
SAINT FINTANS

OUTLINE SURVEY

PROPOSED WEST ELEVATION

1:25

Drawn	Scale	Drawing Number	Rev.
DPH	1:25	24D/96/304	
Chkd	Date		
D.P.M.	12/11/2024		
Scale			
TENDER (01)			



SAINT FINTANS
EXISTING FLOOR PLAN (1:25)

KEY:

30-40/1200

RECORD OF WALL VERTICALITY OVER LENGTH OF 2000mm LONG LEVEL. DIRECTION OF ARROW= DIRECTION OF LEAN OVER BTM OF LEVEL

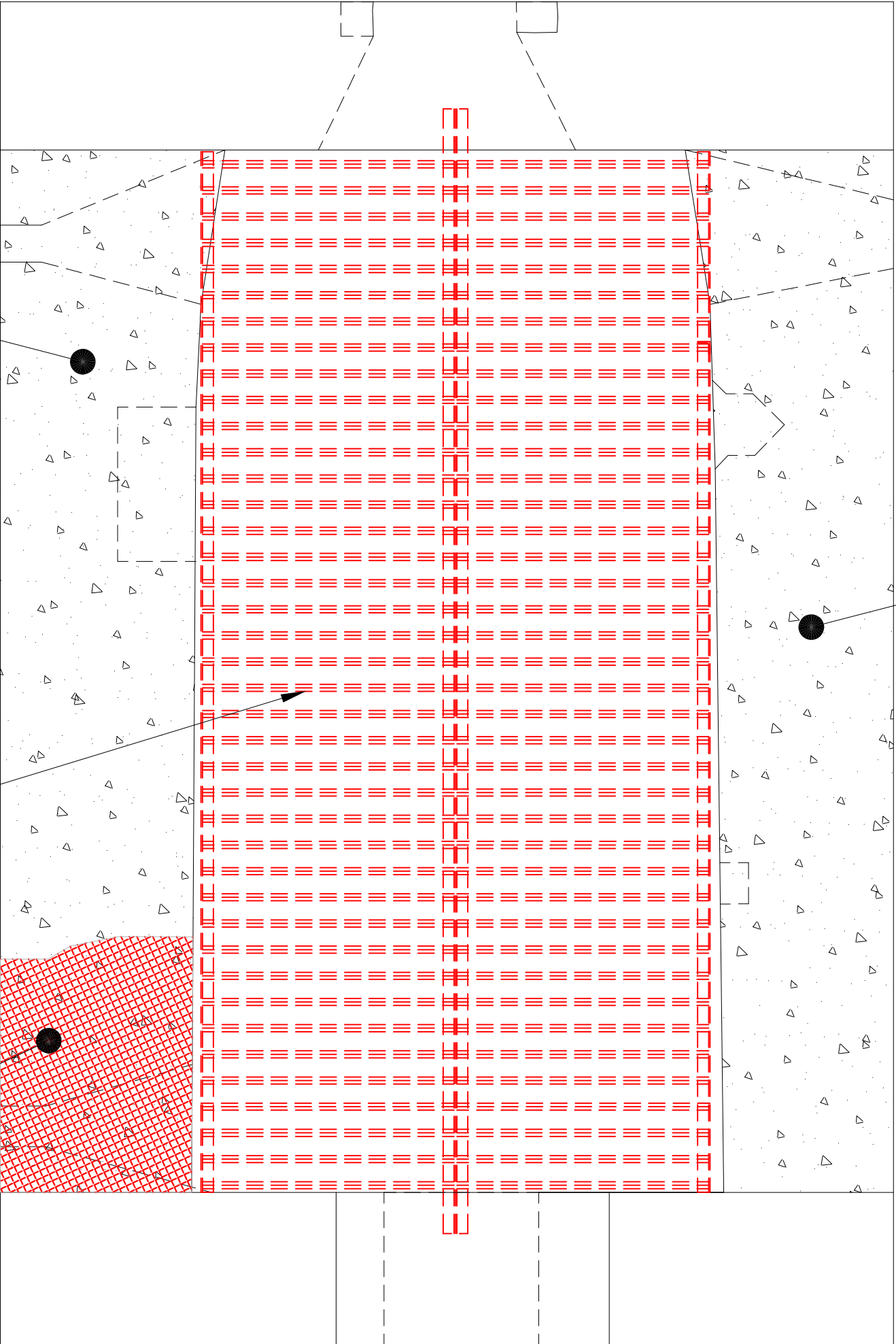
NOTE:
THE DIMENSIONS SHOWN ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND BASED ON LINEAR DIMENSIONS TAKEN ON SITE AND A NON-RECTIFIED PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY PROVIDED BY THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHECKED/APP.

David Maher & Associates
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SAINT FINTANS
OUTLINE SURVEY
EXISTING GROUND FLOOR PLAN
1:25

Drawn	Scale	Drawing Number	Rev.
DPH	1:25	24D/96/901	
Chkd	Date		
D.P.M.	12/11/2024		
Scale			
TENDER (D1)			



SAINT FINTANS
EXISTING ROOF PLAN (1:25)

NOTE:
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AND BASED ON LINEAR DIMENSIONS TAKEN ON
SITE AND A NON-RECTIFIED PHOTOGRAPHIC
SURVEY PROVIDED BY THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

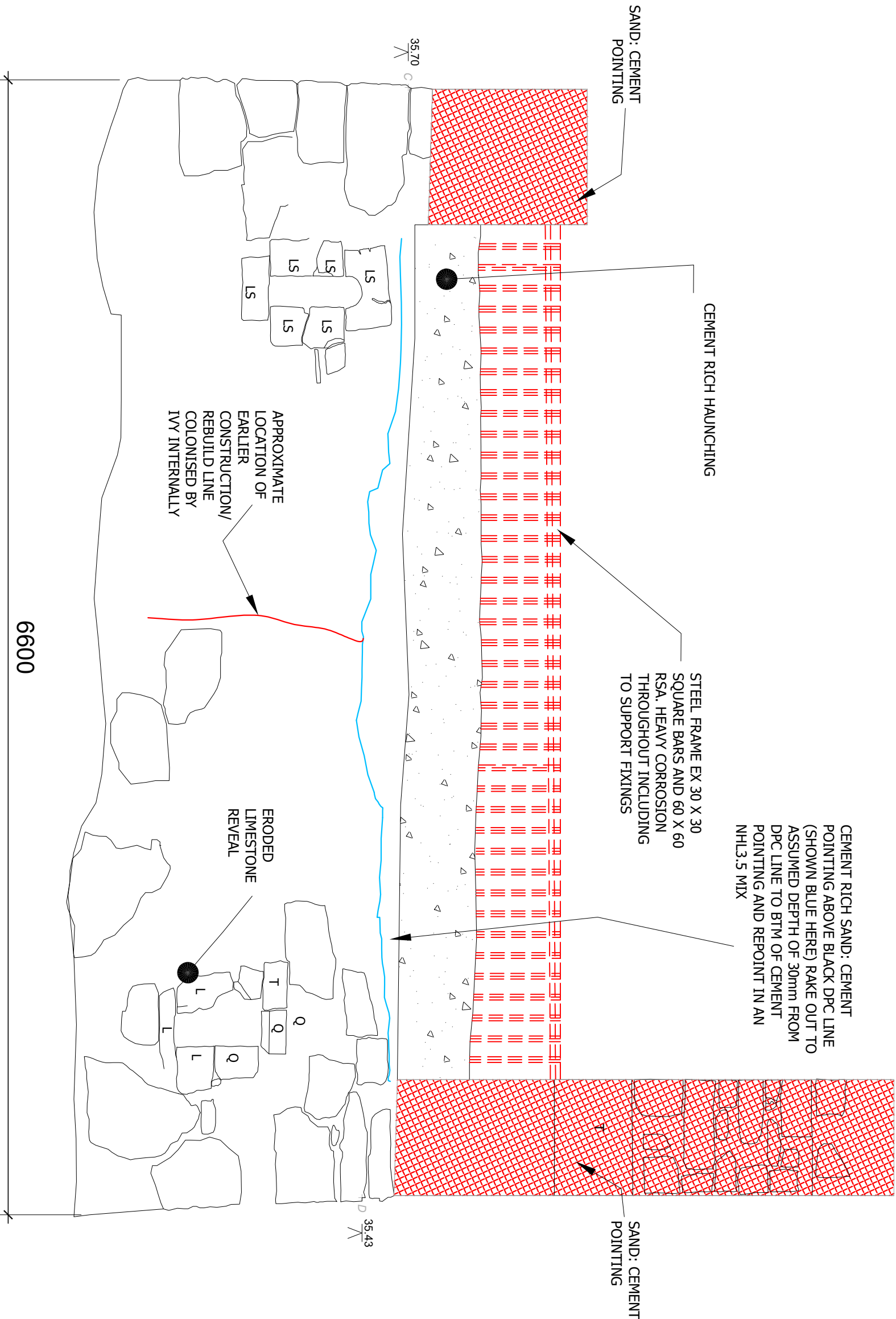
REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHKD	APPR.



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SAINT FINTANS
OUTLINE SURVEY
EXISTING PLAN AT ROOF LEVEL
1:25

Drawn	Scale	Drawing Number	Rev.
DPH	1:25	24D/96/902	
CKD	Date		
D.P.M.	12/11/2024		
Scale			
TENDER (D1)			



KEY:

WALL TYPE:

LIMESTONE:

L

DENSE DARK LIMESTONE:

DL

HOWTH QUARTZ:

Q

RED SANDSTONE:

RS

LIGHT BROWN SANDSTONE

LS

CALP LIMESTONE:

CP

GRANITE

G

TUFA LIMESTONE:

T

DPC CONSTRUCTION LINE

T

CALP LIMESTONE:

CP

SAND: CEMENT MORTAR

CP

NOTE:

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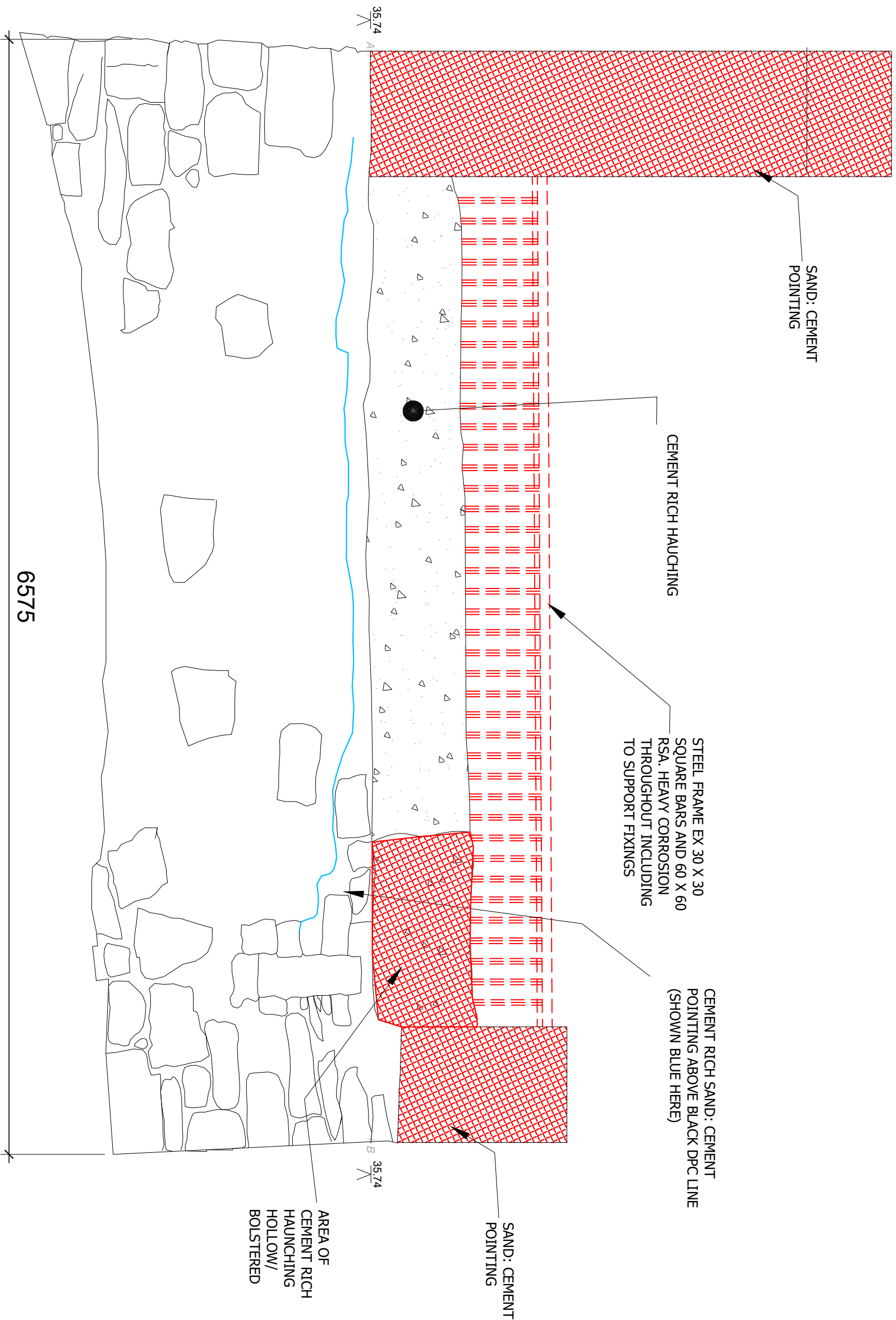
REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHKD/APPR.

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SAINT FINTANS
OUTLINE SURVEY
EXISTING NORTH ELEVATION
1:25

Drawn	Scale	Drawing Number	Rev.
DPH	1:25	24D/96/931	
CHKD			
D.P.M.	12/11/2024		
SCALE			
TENDER (D1)			



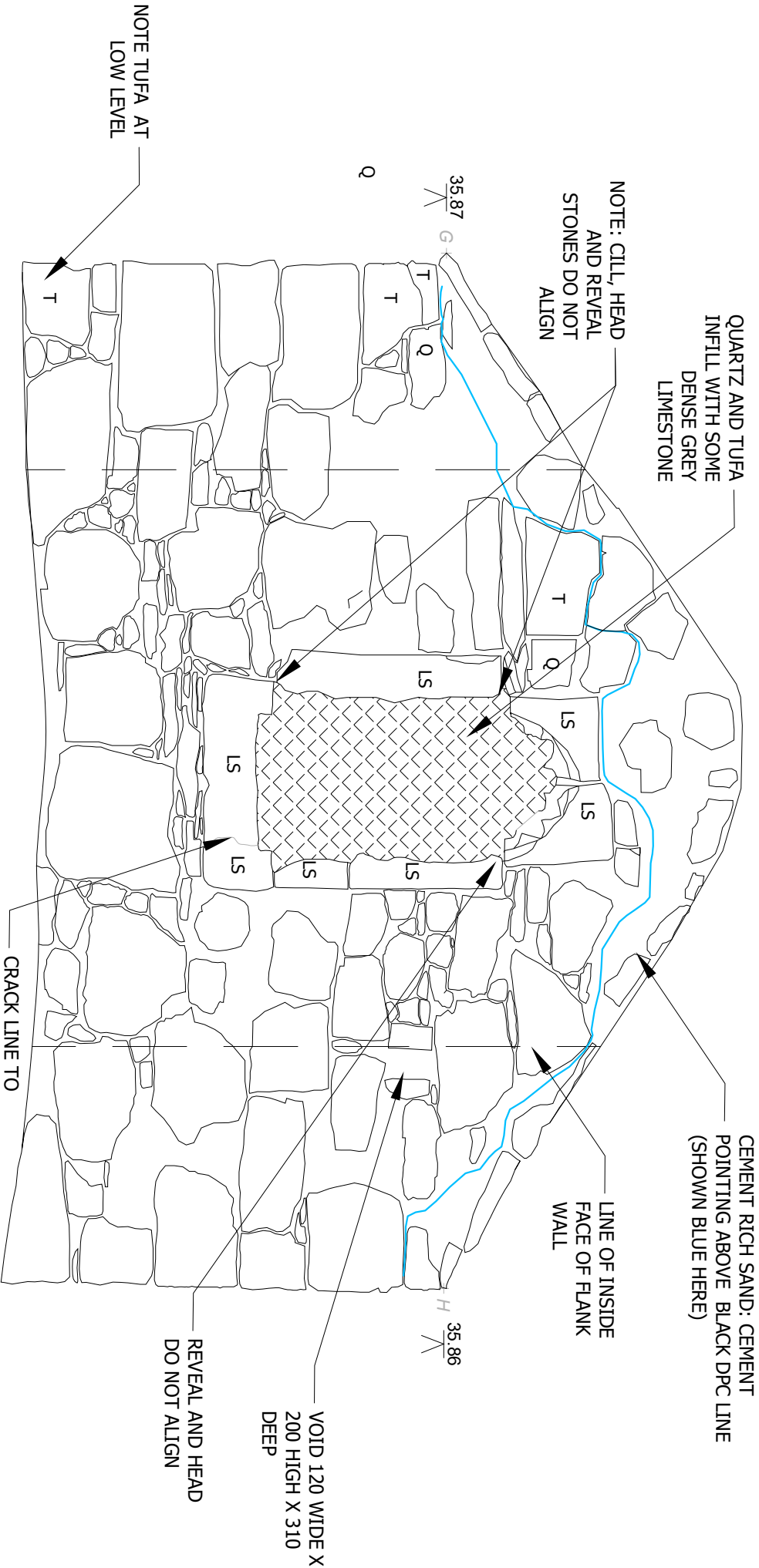
NOTE:
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SITE AND A NON-RECTIFIED PHOTOGRAPHIC
SURVEY PROVIDED BY THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHKD/APPR.

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Civil, Structural & Conservation Engineers
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SAINT FINTANS
OUTLINE SURVEY
EXISTING SOUTH ELEVATION
1:25

Drawn	Scale	Drawing Number	Rev.
DPH	1:25	24D/96/932	
CKD	Date		
D.P.M.	12/11/2024		
Scale			
TENDER (D1)			



KEY:

WALL TYPE:

LIMESTONE:

L

DENSE DARK LIMESTONE:

DL

HOWTH QUARTZ:

Q

RED SANDSTONE:

RS

LIGHT BROWN SANDSTONE

LS

CALP LIMESTONE:

CP

GRANITE

G

TUFFA LIMESTONE:

T

DPC CONSTRUCTION LINE

H

CALP LIMESTONE:

CP

SAND: CEMENT MORTAR

AD

NOTE:

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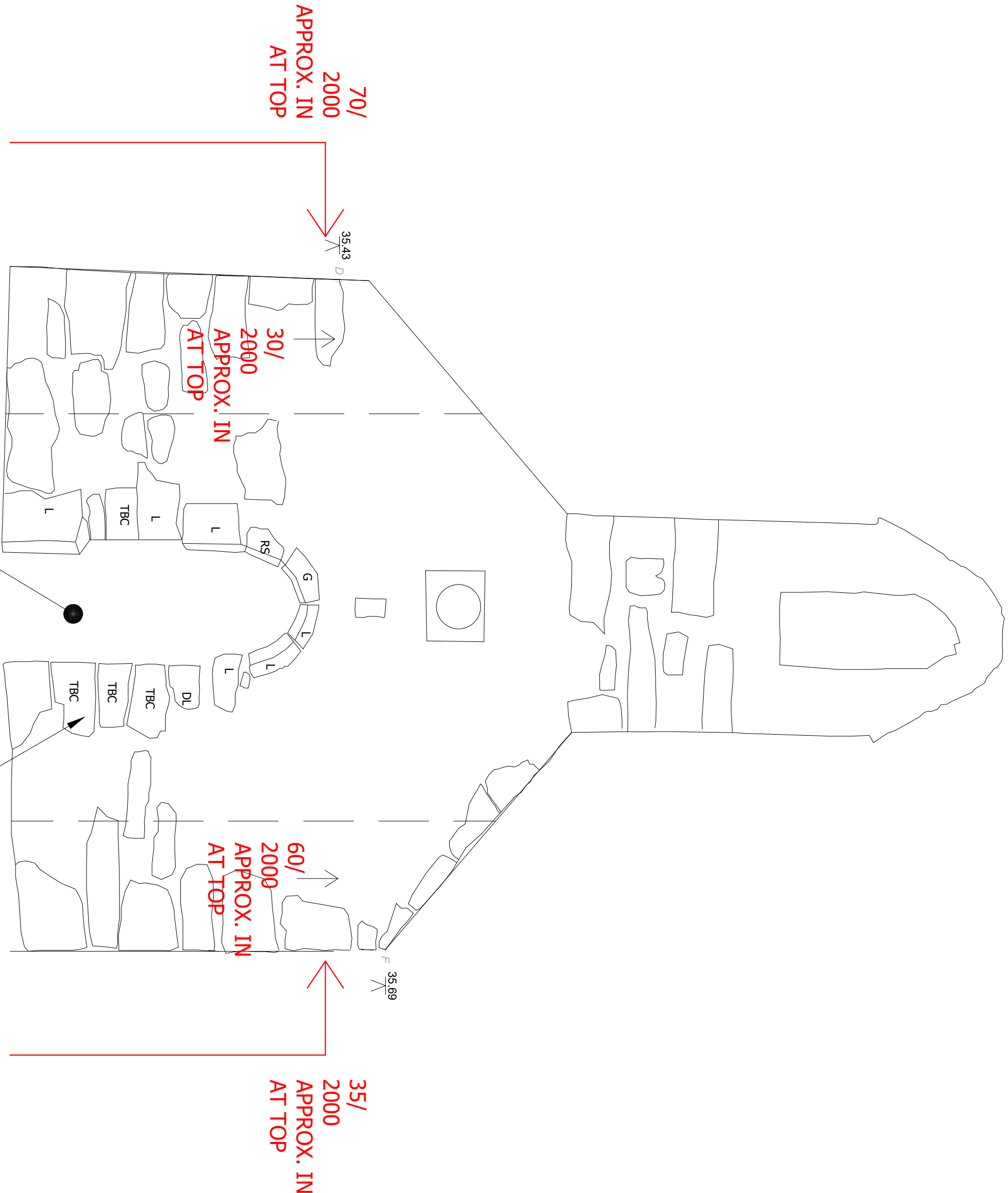
REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHKD/APPR.

David Maher & Associates

Civil, Structural & Conservation Engineers
12 Portobello road, Dublin 8.
Tel 007 6155140 e-mail: info@davidmaher.net

SAINT FINTANS
OUTLINE SURVEY
EXISTING EAST ELEVATION
1:25

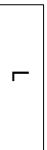
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DPH	1:25	24D/96/933	
CHKD			
D.P.M.	12/11/2024		
SCALE			
TENDER (D1)			



KEY:

WALL TYPE:

LIMESTONE:



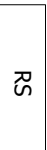
DENSE DARK LIMESTONE:



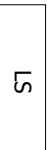
HOWTH QUARTZ:



RED SANDSTONE:



LIGHT BROWN SANDSTONE



CALP LIMESTONE:



GRANITE



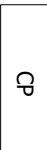
TUFA LIMESTONE:



DPC CONSTRUCTION LINE



CALP LIMESTONE:



SAND: CEMENT MORTAR



NOTE:

THE DIMENSIONS SHOWN ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND BASED ON LINEAR DIMENSIONS TAKEN ON SITE AND A NON-RECTIFIED PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY PROVIDED BY THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHECKED/APP.



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Civil, Structural & Conservation Engineers
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SAINT FINTANS
OUTLINE SURVEY
EXISTING WEST ELEVATION
1:25

Drawn	Scale	Drawing Number	Rev.
CPH	1:25	24D/96/934	
Chkd.	Date		
D.P.M.	12/11/2024		
Scale			
TENDER (D1)			