

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Comhairle Contae
Loch Garman
Wexford
County Council

Wexford Historic Churches and Graveyards

Audit (Phase 1)

for Wexford County Council
and supported by the Heritage Council



National
Heritage Week

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The Recording Project

Co. Wexford contains over 130 historic church and graveyard sites which are in the care of the Local Authority through processes relating to the Irish Church Act 1869.

The purpose of this project is to undertake an audit of these historic church and graveyard sites. Many of the sites are in poor condition and many contain the ruins of medieval churches in varying states of disrepair. A thorough understanding of the issues affecting these sites is required so that adequate planning and provision for works can be made into the future.

Due to the high number of sites, the project has been split into two phases. Phase 1 is being carried out in 2023 and will audit c. 60 sites concentrated in the southern half of Co. Wexford.



Kilmannon church,



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St. Patrick's church, Wexford town



Lady's Island

The Audit

The audit is being carried by a team of archaeologists led by Colm Moriarty, with the support of Wexford County Council's Heritage Officer, Catherine McLoughlin.

It has be divided into desk-based survey, field survey and a final report.

The final report will make future recommendations, include a detailed audit, an 'at risk' register and potential grant avenues.

This project represents the first comprehensive audit of historic church sites in Co. Wexford

Field work

To date approximately 60 church sites have been visited and assessed.

Each site was photographed and the condition of graveyards, perimeter walls, church ruins and headstones noted.

Sites at risk from climate change, coastal erosion, vegetation clearance, overuse of weed-killers, third party encroachment, and other impacts were also determined.



Medieval church ruin, Killanne Little



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The Final Report

The data collected during the Audit will be collated into an illustrated report that will include a database of sites.

This report will be presented in a logical and sequential manner with clear mapping. It will be divided into sections relating to the desk-based assessment, historical research, site inspections and database of results/mapping.

The report will also include a 'risk' register, with a grading system applied to sites.



Kinnagh graveyard, Ballycullane



St Dubhán's Church on the Hook Peninsula, Co Wexford. Founded by a Welsh saint, the church contains many original features such as a grave niche, a piscina, an aumbry and statue shelf.



This Board of 1st Fruits Church at Rathmacknee, Wexford, was built in 1813 and dismantled in 1961 due to falling attendances. It replaced an earlier medieval structure. In 1615 the vicar, Patrick Kelly, was found guilty of adultery and deprived of office.



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An impressive funerary monument at St Iberius's graveyard, Broadway. It's dedicated to a local doctor, Thomas Elwood Lindsay, who died in 1851





The ruins of St Fintan's in Churchtown (Carne), Co Wexford. This medieval foundation is mentioned in a document from 1615 when Apollo Ware was the resident vicar. It continued in use, although in an altered state, until the 1950s when it was finally abandoned.



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The remains of a partially blocked medieval ope at St. Margaret's church, Carne, Wexford. Originally a fine tracery window, it contains a pair of carved human faces. It is made out of Dundry, an easily carved and highly fashionable stone which was imported from Somerset in England



Templetown church, Co Wexford. This site is closely associated with the Knights Templars, a military order of monks who were granted land here by king Henry II of England.



A bullaun stone at Kilcowan graveyard, Wexford. These dished objects are believed to date from the early medieval period and are generally found close to ecclesiastical sites. They appear to have been used to grind down material, in similar manner to a pestle and mortar



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