



Conservation   Research   Analysis

## FAUGHART GRAVEYARD CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT REPORT

For Louth County Council



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



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## Executive Summary

This report was undertaken at the request of the Heritage Office of Louth County Council. The purpose of the report is to assess and advise on the condition and vulnerabilities of Faughart Graveyard (LH004-097 on the Record of Monuments and Place) an archaeological monument under the care and management of Louth County Council, and to provide recommendations for immediate and longer-term repair for stabilization to safeguard the site only, without detracting from its archaeological and architectural significance. The specific aims of the work were to provide:

- i) a condition report on the site, focussing particularly on the ruined church;
- ii) suggestions for essential (short-term) and desirable (medium to longer term) conservation works on the ruined church;
- iii) proposals for management, enhancement and interpretation of the site and its long and varied role in Irish and wider history.

Faughart graveyard contains a number of archaeological monuments (including the nave-and-chancel church, the graveyard enclosure, a high cross base and the possible base of a round tower), graveyard memorials from the eighteenth century onwards, and penitential stations dedicated to the Cult of Saint Brigid. The site has historical significance as both the reputed birthplace of Saint Brigid, and the grave of 'the last high king' of Ireland, Edward Bruce who was killed at the Battle of Faughart on the 14th October 1318. The site is strategically placed overlooking Dundalk, the sea and the plains to the south, and the passes through the Fews mountains of Armagh to the north - and a probable key consideration in the construction of Faughart motte c.180m north-west of the graveyard.

Key Conservation Issues	
<b>Church</b>	The church is of twelfth century date, showing a legacy of later repairs and intervention. The north and south walls of the nave show invasive vegetation, extensive dry joints, destabilised masonry, fire-damaged stones and the collapse of the inner leaf of the masonry. All vegetation should be removed from the walls. Repoint and consolidate all masonry walls using a lime-based mortar, retaining original sound pointing and render where found, and providing a new lime-based haunching to the wall-top to protect the wall from weathering.
<b>Enclosure</b>	The south and east walls of the enclosure are built on the early medieval ecclesiastical enclosure revealed as a cropmark in c.1965 CUCAP aerial photography. A programme of cutting back and maintaining the existing vegetation is necessary to monitor the condition of the drystone walling and to allow planning for any future repair needs.
<b>Memorials</b>	Some memorials are broken but are feasible to repair. However, it is recommended that repair works focus on the church and enclosure .
<b>Interpretation</b>	An interpretation board should be provided in the car park adjacent to the graveyard, with a smaller board containing a labelled map of the enclosure placed within the entrance gates.
<b>Maintenance</b>	The current maintenance is excellent and should be encouraged to continue.
<b>Access</b>	The current impromptu access through a wall breach from the car park is damaging the enclosure wall and likely to expose human burials and should be discontinued. The car park swings freely, posing a risk to pedestrians & vehicles, and should be secured.

*Table 1: Key Conservation Issues at Faughart Graveyard.*

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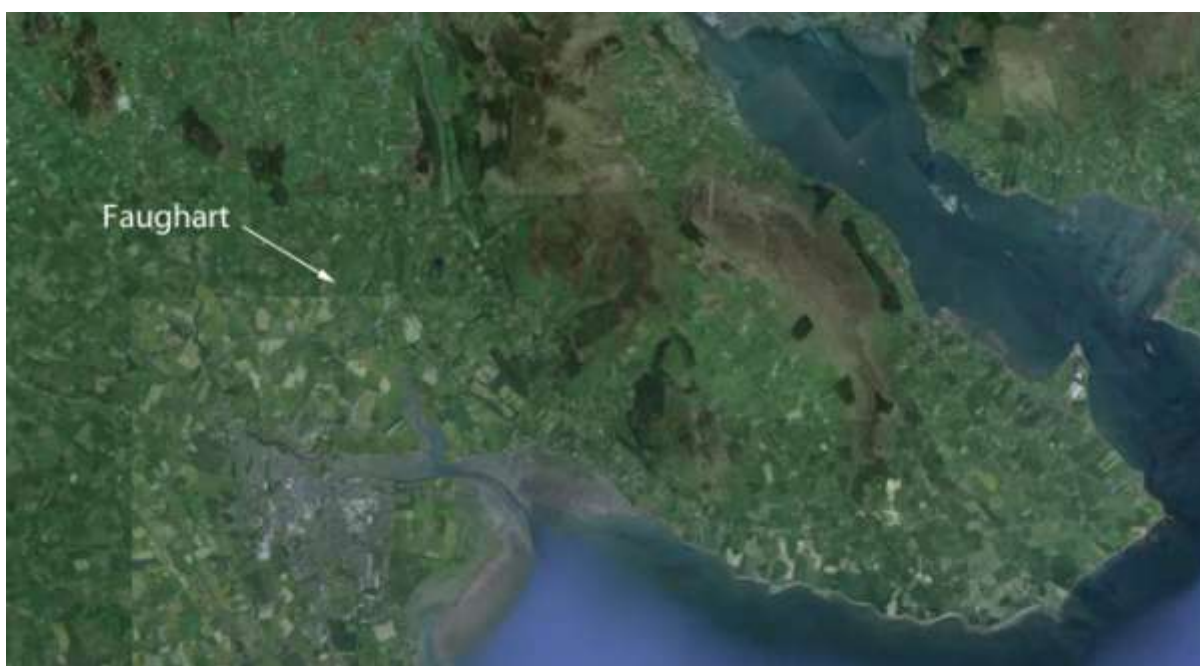
IMPORTANT



## **1. Introduction and Purpose of the Report**

This report was undertaken at the request of the Heritage Office of Louth County Council. The purpose of the report is to assess and advise on the condition and vulnerabilities of Faughart Graveyard (LH004-097 on the Record of Monuments and Place) an archaeological monument under the care and management of Louth County Council, and to provide recommendations for immediate and longer-term repair for stabilization to safeguard the site only, without detracting from its archaeological and architectural significance. The specific aims of the work were to provide:

- i) a condition report on the site, focussing particularly on the ruined church;
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- iii) proposals for management, enhancement and interpretation of the site and its long and varied role in Irish and wider history.



*Above: Location of Faughart in relation to Dundalk and the Carlingford peninsula.*

### **1.1 Methodology & Limitations of Inspection**

The site was examined following a standard methodology for the assessment of archaeological monuments and historic buildings drawn from Pavia & Bolton (2000)<sup>1</sup>, Pavia & Bolton (2001)<sup>2</sup>, Fitzner & Heinrichs (2002)<sup>3</sup>, Van Hees *et al* (2004)<sup>4</sup>, Ashurst (2007)<sup>5</sup>, and Quinlan *et al* (2010)<sup>6</sup>, with additional technical references referred to in the body of the report, and while also considering current planning guidelines<sup>7</sup>. Site visits encompassed a walk-around survey from ground level, and photographic recording of key features.

### **1.2 Nature and Extent of the Site**

The graveyard appears as a sub-rounded enclosure within the townland of Faughart Uper on the east side of the road which crosses the Hill of Faughart. The site overlooks the northern arm of Dundalk Harbour, and stands c.5.5km from the town of Dundalk. Faughart Castle (RMP No.LH004-023) lies c.50m to the north-west. The local bedrock is a calcareous red-mica greywacke from the Clontail Formation, with other stones from the area also found including micro-granite, turbidite, mudstone, gabbro and limestone.



## 2. Faughart: Assessment of Significance

Faughart Graveyard consists of a sub-rounded stone-walled graveyard enclosure containing a number of archaeological monuments and with significant historical associations as the birthplace of Saint Brigid (born c.453) and the Battle of Faughart where the last high king of Ireland, Edward Bruce was killed in 1318.



*Table 2: Key archaeological monuments and cultural heritage sites at Faughart graveyard.*

No.	RMP No.	Description
1.	LH004-097001	Enclosure
2.	LH004-097002	Church
3.	LH004-097003	Graveyard
4.	LH004-097004	Round Tower
5.	LH004-097005	Mound
6.	LH004-097006	High Cross Base
7.	LH004-097007	Holy Well
8.	LH004-097009	Architectural Fragment

*Table 3: Archaeological monuments at Faughart graveyard.*

## **2.1 Historical and Archaeological Context**

Faughart graveyard<sup>8</sup> contains a number of archaeological monuments (including the nave-and-chancel church, the graveyard enclosure, a high cross base and the possible base of a round tower), graveyard memorials from the eighteenth century onwards, and penitential stations dedicated to the Cult of Saint Brigid. The site has historical significance as both the reputed birthplace of Saint Brigid, and the grave of 'the last high king' of Ireland, Edward Bruce who was killed at the Battle of Faughart on the 14th October 1318. In addition the placename has been linked to the *Tain Bo Cualinge*<sup>9</sup>. The site is strategically placed overlooking Dundalk, the sea and the plains to the south, and the passes through the Fews mountains of Armagh to the north - factors which were probable key considerations in the construction of Faughart motte c.180m north-west of the graveyard<sup>10</sup>.

The graveyard has been disturbed in the past, including a 'clean-up' programme in 1965 and an archaeological excavation within the graveyard<sup>11</sup>:

"During the winter before the investigation Faughart Graveyard underwent an extensive clean-up which included cutting away the heavy growth of whitethorn, removal of top-sod throughout the graveyard and from Mound I, levelling of grave-mounds, and re-setting of head stones. The well-house was thickly tuckpointed, and an area dug out before the entrance into which stone steps and a retaining wall were built. Within the church structure the sod was removed throughout. East of the mid-wall the grave-mounds were levelled; west of the mid-wall the area had been levelled. The mid-wall collapse had been almost completely removed. A trench had been dug along the east side of the mid-wall, below the depth of the wall footing. The area where the portion of the south wall immediately east of the mid-wall is missing had been dug out. Immediately outside the north wall considerable soil had been removed and holes dug to the wall footing in several places".

The graveyard is currently actively maintained, with a modern car park constructed immediately to the south of the graveyard.



*Above: General view of Faughart Graveyard*

### **2.1.1 Saint Bridget**

There is a considerable history of association of Faughart as the birthplace Saint Brigid c.451/3-523/5)<sup>12</sup>, one of the most well-known Irish saints who is most commonly associated with Kildare. There is a considerable hagiography<sup>13</sup> and later associations with the Cult of Saint Brigid, Though there has been some debate as to the historicity of early accounts of her life, there remains a strong local association of the saint with Faughart, which is recorded by eighteenth and nineteenth commentators and continues to the present day. For example, the Ordnance Survey Letters c.1836 noted:

"It is said that St. Brigid and her sister lived in this church [in the graveyard], and that it is also called Cill Muire; that a young man sought her in marriage and to escape from him she set out one night from this church for Castletown, which was also called Cill Broin, passing along a small river [which rises ?] at Beallach na Madaie at Sliabh Guilinn and runs SE between Faughart and Castletown into the Bay of Dundalk. Finding him in pursuit of her she knelt down at a bush on the bank and plucked out her eye, and thus escaped recognition by him. A frequent station used to be held at this spot until the proprietor of the land, to bring the waste land into use, cut down the bushes and covered over the river. It is said that after this incident St. Brigid remained at Cill Broin while her sister continued to live in Cill Muire, Faughart."

The *Vita Brigitae* (Life of Brigid) written c.650AD by the cleric Cogitosus, a monk of Kildare, recorded a list of miracles associated with the saint. The 1st February is held as Saint Brigid's feast day. Faughart Hill has a number of sites associated with the veneration of the saint including the well within a grotto, stations of the cross and shrines.

### **2.1.2 The Bruce Wars**

The Bruce Wars<sup>14</sup>, sometimes termed the Bruce Campaigns, was a three-year military campaign in Ireland from 1315 to 1318 by Edward Bruce, brother of Robert Bruce, king of Scotland.

After the Scottish victory at the Battle of Bannockburn (24th June 1314), Edward Bruce had been sent with a fleet of up to 6000 men to Ireland as part of an ongoing Scottish War against England. Edward had been sent to Ireland after a request from Gaelic lords for assistance against continuing incursions by the Anglo-Normans. Edward was dispatched on the understanding that he would become king of Ireland, and Edward is often described as the last high king of Ireland. Ireland had close relations with Scotland, and many contemporaries including Robert Bruce, writing on Rathlin Island c.1306-7 sought to seek an alliance between Scottish and Irish lords, viewing them as a single nation:

"Our people and your people ... stem from one seed of birth ... and are urged to come together ... by a common language and by common custom ... so that with God's will our nation may recover her ancient freedom".

Edward and a Scots army, perhaps up to 6000 strong, landed at Larne in May 1315, and undertook campaigns over three years extending through Ulster, Louth, Meath, Kildare and the midlands as far south as Tipperary and as far west as Limerick. Many Irish also joined Edwards force, hoping to overthrow Anglo-Norman rule in Ireland. Irish engagements during the Bruce Invasion included the Battle of Athenry, Galway on 10th August 1316 where Rickard de Bermingham and William Liath de Burgh led an Anglo-Norman force to victory. Edwards campaign failed to hold the areas they conquered, and became unpopular due to pillaging and to the impacts of the pan-European Famine of 1315-17 as northern Europe experienced harsh winters, inclement weather, widespread crop failures and poor harvests. The campaign ended at Battle of Faughart with the death of Edward Bruce and perhaps as many as 300 Scottish soldiers

"Yes despite ... familiar ground from which to attack above Dundalk (a town they had burned in 1316), Edward Bruce and his supporters were separated and wiped out in a close, bloody battle at Faughart on 14 October. With Robert's brother fell knights John Soules, John Stewart of Jedburgh and two of his kinsmen, and Sir Solin Campbell of Lochawe and Ardscotnish, as well as likely chiefs of the MacDonald's ...

Edwards's body was decapitated, eviscerated and divided in four. As an excommunicate he could have no Christian burial but her was also to be displayed like a rebel. His severed heart, hand and a quarter of his corpse were mounted on Dublin's walls while his head was delivered to Edward II during his parliament at York: the king would reward its bearer, the English commander John de Bermingham, with the earldom of Louth in Ireland (May 1319)"<sup>15</sup>.



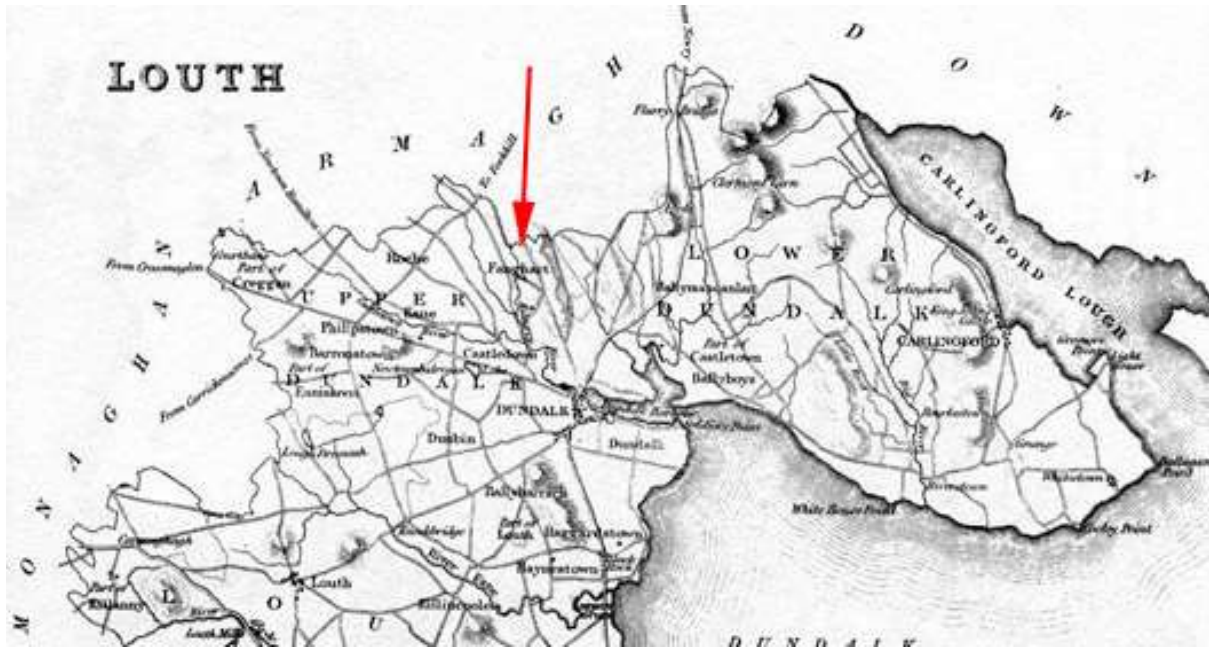
Above: Bruce Campaigns in Ireland 1315-18<sup>16</sup>

## 2.2 Historical Cartography

Faughart is recorded on seventeenth and eighteenth century mapping including the Down Survey maps and Taylor and Skinner's 1777 map/ The first edition Ordnance Survey map records a 'Church (in ruins)' and indicates a rectangular church building in a sub-rounded graveyard enclosure with a small unlabelled circle in the position of the well dedicated to Saint Brigid, with 'Faughart Mound' in the location of the Anglo-Norman motte. Later Ordnance Survey six-inch mapping records 'Faughart Hill (Site of Battles)', a 'Tumulus' on the site of the Anglo-Norman motte, and 'Church (in Ruins), Cross, Graveyard and St. Brigid's Well at the graveyard.



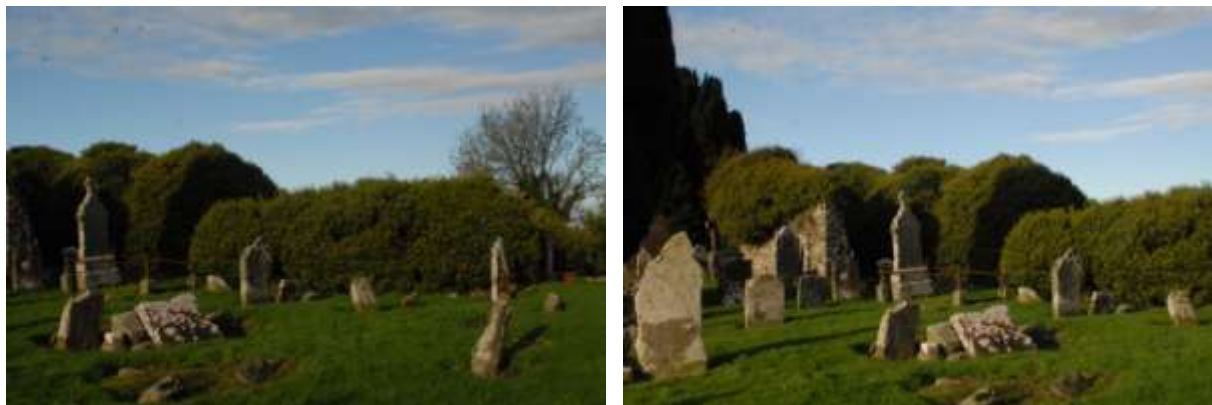




Above: Map of Louth accompanying Samuel Lewis's Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, c.1837 indicating Faughart.

### **2.3 The Church, Tower and Enclosure**

The sub-rounded enclosure is composed of a has a relatively modern entrance on the west side. A cropmark of a large double-ditched oval enclosure sized c.150x130m which encircled the ecclesiastical site<sup>19</sup> which is bisected by the present road. The south and east walls of the present graveyard enclosure are built on this earlier ecclesiastical enclosure.



*Above: General views of the nave-and-chancel church.*

The graveyard contains the ruined remains of a small nave-and-chancel church, considerably overgrown by vegetation. Excavations within the church in 1966 revealed that the walls were built on boulder clay and were unmortared, and that the west wall was built above an occupation layer dating to the twelfth century or earlier - indicating that the earliest part of the existing church is likely to be twelfth century. This building appears to have been in a ruined condition for a considerable amount of time, and shows a legacy of past repairs. In 1744, Isaac Butler provided an account of the church and graveyard:

"The old church of Faughart is upon a hill a mile and a half from Dundalk, it has been considerable, but all in ruins. There has been to the west of the church a large fine Cross which is pulled down and broken, five paces from it there is a small circle of stones edge way in the ground, two larger than the rest than compose the entrance, the place is capable of containing half a dozen persons, the entrance faces East. At a small distance from the church Northward there is a well of good spring water which lathers very well, it covered with a stone arch in bad repair".

The church was again recorded in the Townland Survey as a church in ruins:

"..the inside gable which was nine feet high in 1836 had fallen down by the time Canon O'Hanlon saw it. He published a sketch made by himself ... which shows the north and south walls about equal in height, each having an ope, and the west wall completely gone except for a remnant of masonry at its south end. Upon the whole he makes the comment that "this ruinous pile of masonry, at present, is in a very dilapidated condition".

The building was described in 1966 during archaeological excavations within the graveyard:

"The visible remains of the church structure before investigation consisted of walls of several types of stone-work, the stone colour mainly reddish but changing in different lights, standing to various heights, and forming a long rectangular building with a collapsed mid-wall. The lower courses of stone-work are of large and small stones making a pattern medieval in appearance, but the upper portions are mainly of smaller flat stones and may have been built up later. A window in the north wall has what appear to be original window stones but may have been re-set later. A portion of the south wall immediately west of the mid-wall, which was below ground level until the recent clean-up, was carefully blocked at some time with large stones of equal size. The south west corner of the mid-wall and the blocked portion of the south wall showed signs of burning"<sup>20</sup>.



The church was described by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland as:

"Divided nave and chancel, built with a mixture of large granite boulders and thin slabs of greywacke. The chancel is featureless, having no evidence of an E window, piscina or sedelia. The remains of the cross-wall between the nave and chancel appears to have a jamb at its S terminal indicating a doorway. The S wall of the nave has been altered and straight joints at its E end indicate infilling. About 4.2m W of the cross-wall there is a window jamb high up in the S wall. Almost directly under the jamb the wall has been broken out and refaced at the W side, indicating that there was a relatively modern doorway here. It cannot be original since it lies directly under the remains of an early window. The jambs of the window are not dressed and consist of granite boulders similar to those in the body of the wall. The doorway, in the W gable, has an opening 2.9m wide and is obviously too big to be the original entrance, which was probably only c. 0.09m wide; this is indicated by two rough granite blocks in the present entrance. The W end of the N wall of the nave is bonded to the N end of the cross-wall, and therefore they are contemporary. The N chancel wall, on the other hand, is only butted against the cross-wall and is therefore later than the nave (see also CLAJ 1966). There is an ivy-covered window with embrasure high up in the N wall, constructed of rough granite boulders. The position of the doorway and the type of wall construction with large rough granite boulders are reminiscent of the twelfth-century buildings at Glendalough, Co. Wicklow, and some other Irish monastic settlements".



*Above: The interior of the church*



*Above: The main entrance into the graveyard.*



*Above: The graveyard enclosure wall is largely concealed by well-developed vegetation, and entered via one main entrance with an adjacent broken stile, and an impromptu entrance through a breach in the graveyard wall providing access from the car park.*

The round tower consists of a single course of large drystone masonry set in a circle containing a low earthen mound and topped by the base of a high cross (see Section 2.3). The round tower has been described as:

"Faughart is among the slightest of remains, and its identity of a Round Tower is possible rather than proven. the evidence consists of a single course of large stones forming a circle, consistent with the base course of a substantial tower, and located to the north-west of the church. The large dimensions of the individual stones and the fact that they are worked to the curve make them plausible as representing those of a Round Tower, although they are probably disturbed rather than in situ. One of the stones, to the west of the circle, appears to be a fragment of a stepped offset stone (similar to that at Balla\_ while other sections of the circumference seem to be inverted fragments of the offset course. It can be assumed that a tower was at least begun on this site, as there is no reason to suppose that they were brought to Faughart from another site. The interior of the circle of stones is covered by an earthen mound on which is positioned the base of a high cross"<sup>21</sup>.





*Above: General view of the base of a possible round tower, with a plain high cross base mounted in the centre of the mound.*



*Above: The stones are cut to a curve, lending some weight to the argument that they represent the base of a round tower.*

## **2.4 High Cross Base (St. Brigid's Pillar)**

Mounted on top of the earthen mound encircled by a ring of stones cut to the curve (suggested as the base of a round tower) stands the irregular truncated pyramidal base of a possible high cross, with a mortice cut into the upper surface. The stone is known locally as 'Saint Brigid's Pillar'. The stone is without surface decoration, and shows a very weathered surface normally covered with a lichen biofilm. The mortice has a later cross fragment placed upright within it. The Archaeological Survey of Ireland recorded the high cross base:

"LH004-097006- Description: This stands roughly at the centre of a circular mound (LH004-097004-). Excavations in 1966 indicated that this must have been relocated to this position within the graveyard in modern times. It consists of a squarish granite block with a flat top in which there is a socket for tenon, most probably for a high cross. A fragment of what appears to have been the remains of this cross was recovered during the restoration of a small portion of the graveyard wall c. 1997. The fragment (dims. 0.34m by 0.31m) consists of a portion of carved granite, representing the central part of a small high cross. On one side there is a prominent boss (diam. 0.1m), which stands proud of the surface. The decoration on the other sides consists of a circular area (diam. 0.14m) defined by a ring with a central 'cupmark'. This fragment is in Dundalk Museum (LH007-190----)".



*Above: General view of Faughart Graveyard*

## **2.5 Burials & Memorials**

The graveyard has a good variety of memorials within inscriptions from the seventeenth century to the present day<sup>22</sup>. The burial ground is well-maintained, though a number of upright grave-slabs have broken. The broken fragments have generally been stored *in situ* at the base of their respective memorial allowing the possibility of repair in the future. All memorials show well-established lichen biofilm. These types of growth are associated with bio-weathering of certain types of weak sandstones, limestones and other stone types. However, these are also indicative of good air quality and an absence of soiling and other pollutants. Some authors have also argued that these biofilms act as a protective layer (bio-protection) shielding the stone surface from rainfall and other weathering forms.





*Above: Faughart Graveyard contains a collection of memorials and grave-slabs from the eighteenth century onwards.*



*Above: The burial marker for Edward Bruce.*



Above: The memorials are generally in good condition, but many show stone weathering.



Above: A wide range of memorials are found within Faughart graveyard, with upright slabs being the most common type.



Above: Iron railed enclosure almost entirely enveloped by mature vegetation, with a simple chain delineating the extent of the adjacent burial plot.

## **2.6 Holy wells and Penitential Stations**

A holy well within the graveyard is indicated on the first edition Ordnance Survey map, though the present structure appears to be of early twentieth century date, and is approached by a twentieth century flight of steps with modern parapet walls leading to the well. The well is partly shielded from view by mature vegetation, and remains in active use. The Archaeological Survey of Ireland records:

"LH004-097007-Description: Marked on the 1938-9 'OS 6-inch' map as 'St Brigid's Well'. Covered with a corbelled canopy of stone that was constructed between 1900 and 1924; before this it had a clay canopy (CLAJ 1966, 115). Partial excavations by L. Connor revealed a deep cutting at the front of the well face (CLAJ 1966, 125-9). There is a tradition that a skull lay beside the well and that people drank from it to cure headaches (IFC Schools MSS 660, 340)<sup>23</sup>. It was also claimed to cure rheumatism and other pains (IFC Schools MSS 670, 8)".

The 'Townland Survey of County Louth'<sup>24</sup> noted that a long-standing tradition of veneration of Saint Brigid at Faughart, and reproduced excerpts from early twentieth century guides to religious practices at the site:

"Both booklets describe the ritual: The days most favoured for the carrying on of the religious practices associated with The Stream are the first Sundays of the month, especially the one following the Saint's Feast

Day, the First Sunday in February. The Stations consist of the following exercises:

- (i) Act of Contrition.
- (2) Then say Pater, Ave and Creed.
- (3) Cross to other side of stream and recite Pater, Ave and Creed.
- (4) Another Pater, Ave and Creed are said on round stone in bed of stream.
- (5) Then follow ten circuits of the mound on which sits the cross, reciting a decade of the Rosary, or one Ave, whilst walking round each time. The course of the stream is then followed down through the grove across the road and on into the adjoining meadow, reaching that part of the stream in which appears knee-marked stone.
- (6) Say on bank Pater, Ave and Creed.
- (7) And kneeling in the knee-marks repeat Pater, Ave and Creed.
- (8) Then follows three Paters and three Aves in honour of the Most Holy Trinity while kneeling on top of stone.
- (9) And again on bank a Pater, Ave and Creed. Proceed further along the stream and on reaching shoe-marked stone
- (10) Recite Pater, Ave and Creed.
- (11) Finishing by making ten circuits of the stone saying an Ave whilst walking each round or, if time permits, the Rosary. The different exercise might be followed by the invocation 'Holy St. Brigid, intercede and pray for us.'"

'Saint Brigid's Bed', one of the penitential stations, lies in the northern part of the enclosure and consists of a horse-shoe shaped earthen mound with squarish pillar stones flanking the entrance. Excavation in 1966 noted:

"St Brigid's Bed {Mound II} is a horseshoe-shaped mound with a roughly shaped rectangular stone tapering up to a point at each foot of the shoe. In the round central loop of the shoe is set a large flat round black stone with the pockmarked surface characteristic of underwater erosion. The inner facing stones of the mound were visible in places on the north side of the mound"<sup>25</sup>.





*Above: The horseshoe-shaped mound of 'Saint Brigid's Bed' lies in the northern part of the graveyard.*



*Above: The early twentieth century corbelled stone canopy above Saint Brigids Well.*

## 2.7 Bruce Grave

The grave consists of a horizontal stone slab, with two upright pillars and an iron rail at the head of the slab bearing a modern inscription stone noting in Irish and English "Edward Bruce, King of Ireland, Killed in Battle of Faughart, 14th October 1318". As was common practice at the time for those considered traitors to the crown, Edwards's body was decapitated, eviscerated and divided in four. As an excommunicate he would have been denied Christian burial and his remains would have been displayed to deter other 'rebels' "His severed heart, hand and a quarter of his corpse were mounted on Dublin's walls while his head was delivered to Edward II during his parliament at York: the king would reward its bearer, the English commander John de Bermingham, with the earldom of Louth in Ireland (May 1319)"<sup>26</sup>. What may lie within the Bruce grave in Faughart graveyard remains a matter for speculation. The grave may have been chosen at a much later date as a place of commemoration, or, as Victor Buckley<sup>27</sup> suggested "perhaps part of Bruce's remains stayed in Faughart - in a traitor's grave".



Above: Views of the Bruce grave.

## 2.8 Relationship with Faughart Motte

An earthen motte (the surviving remnant of a type of earth and timber castle favoured by the Anglo-Normans) lies to the north of Faughart graveyard. These fortifications were built by the Anglo-Normans during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries to defend their newly conquered territories, and are typically steep-sided and built on natural rises or strategic points. The summit would have been surrounded by a palisade which enclosed a *bretasche* or wooden watchtower, while the base was defended by a fosse. Many of these medieval earthwork castles also had associated structures which are revealed during archaeological investigation. The Archaeological Survey of Ireland provides the following description of the surviving earthworks of Faughart Motte lying c.180m north of the church:

"Situated on the summit of Faughart Hill, overlooking the countryside on all but the E side, not far from Faughart church (LH004-097002-). It consists of a large mound (H c. 8m, diam. at base c. 38m, at summit c. 15.6m) surrounded by a fosse (Wth 5-6m, D c. 1.5m). The fosse is almost flat-bottomed and has its outer face lined in places with drystone walling. It is partly filled in from the N to the E where the modern roadway impinges on it. The mound has been badly eroded in places by cattle climbing up its face. Where the core has been exposed it can be seen that the mound consists of undisturbed boulder clay in the lower portion with a large amount of greywacke in the upper layers mixed with clay. The mound has been quarried at the S and SW. Wright (1758, bk I, pl. XIV) illustrates an octagonal enclosure surrounding the summit of the mound and two ramps running out from it. The remains of the walled structure (LH004-023002-) on top and one of the ramps at the NE are still clearly visible. The ramp or buttress is 0.8-0.9m wide and has one course of large uncut boulders exposed for a length of 4.7m. The wall on the summit is reasonably well preserved from the NW to the SE but has been quarried away from the S to the SW. At the E side of the summit there are the remains of a possible entrance through the stone wall with what



appears to be a stone jamb at its S side. Immediately to the S of this entrance feature there is a well-preserved section of the wall four courses high (H 0.6m, Wth c. 1m). It is bonded with mortar and has a distinct batter on its outer face. At the NW side of the summit there is a short section of a secondary or inner walling. The existing section of outer wall here is 1.8m long and 0.9m wide, while the inner is 2.9m long and 1.6m wide. The outer section is built with large boulders mortared together. The wall follows the perimeter of the summit except at the NW where it is set back by 7m from the edge of the mound. According to Wright, Lord Mountjoy in the reign of Elizabeth I camped there several times during the Tyrone rebellion. The fortification at the top of the motte might be attributed to this period.



*Above: Faughart Motte, as viewed from the north-west corner of the graveyard.*



*Above: View of the motte showing a fragment of the masonry wall which encircled the top of the earthen mound.*

The motte has a 'squared-off' top, which has been suggested as a consequence of later re-fortification of a motte<sup>28</sup>. The topographer Samuel Lewis also noted later seventeenth century use of the fortification:

"The ancient fort of Faughart consists of an artificial mount 60 feet high, surrounded by a deep trench with a counterscarp; the whole area of the summit is circumscribed by the foundations of an octagonal building, but whether a tower or only a parapet is uncertain. It is situated near the ancient frontier of the English pale, and in 1596, the Archbishop of Cashel and the Earl of Ormonde, on the part of the English

government, held a conference here with the Irish chieftains O'Nial and McDonnell, to negotiate a treaty of peace, which was rejected by the latter.

During the insurrection of the Earl of Tyrone, Lord Mountjoy frequently encamped at this place and in the neighbourhood, and in 1600 remained here from the 15th of October till the 9th of November, while the Earl held the pass of Moira, about a mile distant".

The Archaeological Survey noted the remains of a walled structure on top of the motte, which may relate to seventeenth century use of the structure, and the presence of a Z-plan souterrain discovered in May 1874 near the motte:

"Mr. John Craig, who rented an adjoining farm, told the writer that in the field next this Dun, while ploughing, the hoofs of a horse sunk through some flag stones. On examination of the spot, a remarkable zig-zag-shaped earth-cave was discovered. After removing some of the covering stones he descended into it and found it regularly walled on the sides. Barely stooping, he was enabled to pass through it for several yards, covering flags being over his head. He saw several specimens of crockery ware within the cave, through which his further progress was checked by its being choked by earth and stones, in one particular place. The extent of these remarkable caves, he pointed out to the writer, on the surface of the ground above, and he expressed the greatest desire that they should be carefully explored by gentlemen competent to describe them"<sup>29</sup>.

## **2.8 Assessment of Significance**

Faughart has strong historical values, with a long tradition as the birthplace of one of Ireland's most well-known saints of the early medieval period - Saint Brigid. Veneration of the saint has continued to be an important facet of the graveyard down to the present day, and has resulted in the creation of a set of practices and creation of places of veneration in the form of the holy well and penitential stations.

The place is strongly associated with the death of Edward Bruce, the 'last high king of Ireland' on the 14th October 1318, though the exact location and the extent of the battlefield is not known. A burial plot associated with Edward Bruce is found adjacent to the ruined church,

The graveyard retains a number of features of archaeological significance including the twelfth century masonry church, the graveyard enclosure (part of which follows the alignment of the early medieval ecclesiastical enclosure), the base of a high cross, and has great potential for buried archaeological remains to survive also.

The graveyard is also associated with the nearby medieval earthwork castle - the motte of Faughart, which occupies a strategic position on the summit of the hill of Faughart. This type of castle is associated with the Anglo-Normans, but was also used by Edward Bruce and may have been refortified c.1600AD.

### **3. Condition Survey**

NB - The church is aligned on a north-west to south-east angle. For the purposes of clarity in the photographs below, the long walls of the church are referred to as 'north' and 'south', and the short walls are 'east and west'.

#### **3.1 Faughart nave-and-chancel church**

The church is in very poor condition, and the intense vegetation both conceal the extent of damage, and also exacerbate the process of deterioration. The present remains consist of two walls standing to/close to full height (though largely obscured by vegetation) with lower walls surviving in the later chancel, with the cross-wall surviving at little more than foundation level. It should be noted that trenches were previously opened within the building in 1966 as part of archaeological excavations.



*Above: The north face of the north wall is obscured by well-developed vegetation which almost entirely envelopes this part of the structure (left). The west wall has been opened by a breach which has been historically repaired. The southern wall (right) has vegetation confined mainly to the upper half.*



*Above: Surviving fragment of the west wall showing a mixture of massive (possibly face-bedded slabs) and smaller flaggy masonry with a number of generations of mortars indicating ongoing 'patch' repair work.*





*Above: The interior of the church (seen from the west) is grassed over, with the cross-wall surviving at foundation level only, the centre part of the south wall collapsed and appearing as a pile of debris (centre) with the later chancel obscured by vegetation (background).*



*Above: View of the chancel from the east showing the overgrown north wall (right) and collapse of part of the south wall (left).*





*Above: Collapsed section of the south wall of the nave and the cross-wall.*



*Above: Exposed weathered wall-core of the south wall of the nave.*



*Above: North face of the church (left) and view of the inner (south elevation) of the north wall of the chancel (right).*





*Above: Only a small fragment of the masonry of the north wall of the church is exposed (left) which shows dry joints and root penetration (right).*

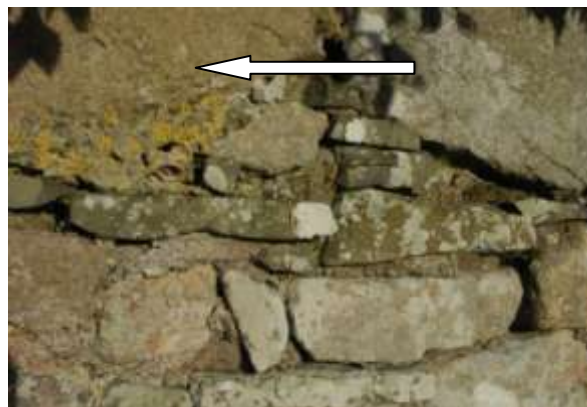
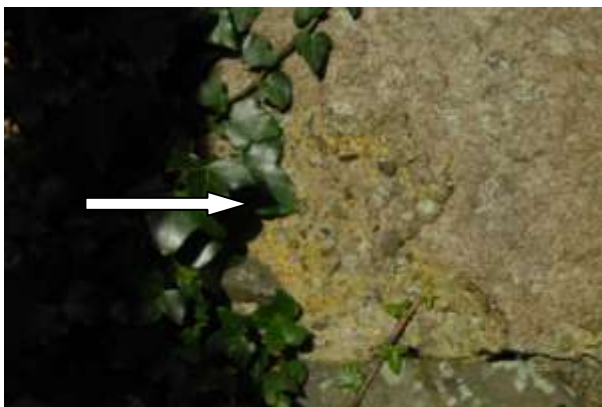


*Above: The exposed masonry of the south elevation of the south wall is in reasonable condition.*



*Above: However, the upper half of the wall, largely concealed by vegetation, shows extensive dry jointing and displacement of masonry through the penetration of roots into the fabric of the wall.*





*Above: The remains of a lime-based external render survive on parts of the south elevation of the south wall of the nave.*



*Above: The bedding mortars of the of the south elevation of the south wall of the nave show some recession but can be retained with delicate pointing-up repairs focused on the dry joints only.*



*Right: The north face of the south wall of the nave is in poor condition, with large stone detaching from the face of the wall and ivy penetration into the upper half of the wall.*





*Above: The north face of the south wall of the nave shows extensive dry joints, loose unstable masonry and ivy penetration to the upper half of the wall. It should be noted that the large stones shown in the photograph above appear to be face-bedded and are so at particular risk of collapse.*



*Above: Collapse of the outer leaf of masonry at the base of the north face of the south wall of the nave*





*Above: The upper half of the north face of the south wall of the nave shows extensive open dry joints and invasive vegetation threatening to de-stabilise the masonry.*



*Above: The larger stones exposed in the wall (originally concealed by an internal lime plaster or other finish) appear to be face-bedded, and are precariously positioned on loss of the bedding mortar.*





*Above: Dry jointing is common, but the masonry also appears to have suffered other types of damage.*



*Above: Fire-damaged stones are commonly found among the masonry (left) and face-bedded laminated stones showing delamination can also be seen (right).*



*Above: Some of the granitic stones show well-developed decay forms - this could be the result of using pre-weathered stones (if the stone was a glacial erratic quarried as a fieldstone), but can also arise as a result of thermal stress arising from fire damage.*



*Above: The chancel is enveloped by vegetation and close inspection of the masonry was not possible. However, given the repairs required to the north and south walls of the nave, it is very likely that similar levels of dry jointing and root penetration into the masonry fabric can be expected in this part of the church.*

### **3.2 Round Tower (base of)**

The base of the round tower is in good condition and requires no urgent or immediate works. The ground are well-maintained and care should be taken during grass-cutting that the blades of strimmers or other tools do not abrade the surface of the stones. Care should also be taken not to dislodge the stones which are not secured by mortar and are earth-fast drystone. The stones show a biofilm of moss and lichen. However, the stone surfaces do not appear to retain any dressing or other features, and it is not necessary to remove or otherwise treat the surface of the stones.



*Above: The grass on the earthen mound is well-maintained. The structure requires no immediate repair.*





*Above: The stones are not perfectly aligned and show a greenish biofilm, but do not currently require any urgent or immediate intervention.*

### 3.3 High Cross (base of)

The base of the high cross appears to be in reasonable condition and requires no urgent or immediate works. The stone shows a number of weathering forms and a well-established lichen biofilm and has experienced surface loss over the centuries. However, the surface appeared reasonably sound at the time of inspection, with no significant surface loss and no urgent repair requirements.



*Above: The high cross base is positioned in the centre of the possible round tower (see Section 3.3) and is without surface decoration.*



*Above: The side of the base stone shows an incipient vertical fracture which appears to be an inherent fault of the stone (left, arrowed). The socket on the top of the stone is filled with moisture but is not associated with any severe stone decay, and the upper surface shows well-established biofilm.*

### 3.4 Holy Well

The Holy Well appears to be in reasonable condition and requires no urgent or immediate works.



*Above: General views of Saint Brigid's Well.*



*Above: The entrance to the well (left) leading to a shallow well (centre) with the masonry showing Portland Cement based pointing mortars (right).*



*Above: The adjacent tree is also incorporated into modern veneration practices at the well. However, the vegetation is not having any impact on the well structure and no intervention is currently required.*



### **3.5 Burial of Edward Bruce**

The grave appears to be in reasonable condition and requires no urgent or immediate works. Interpretation for the grave is limited to a small stone at the head of the grave and the site would benefit from fuller information explaining the significance of the site and the Battle of Faughart.

### **3.5 Graveyard Enclosure Wall**

Much of the graveyard wall is obscured by vegetation and could not be properly assessed. However, those sections of masonry wall exposed at the time of inspection showed loose masonry, dry joints and vulnerable areas. The northern part of the graveyard enclosure is composed of drystone masonry, much of which appears to be composed of granitic erratics which give a particular character to the enclosure. Invasive vegetation poses the greatest threat to this section of the wall.



*Above: The adjacent tree is also incorporated into modern veneration practices at the well. However, the vegetation is not having any impact on the well structure and no intervention is currently required.*



*Above: General view of the north wall of the graveyard with Faughart Motte in the background.*

The eastern length of the enclosure wall is largely obscured by well-developed masonry



*Above: General view of the inner face of the east side of the enclosure wall obscured by vegetation.*





*Above: The east side is also largely composed of drystone granitic erratic boulders.*

The southern and eastern sections of enclosure wall are arguably the most archaeologically significant as they occur on the alignment of the earlier ecclesiastical enclosure which surrounded the site and appeared as a cropmark on aerial photography by CUCAP c.1965. An impromptu access point into the graveyard allows pedestrian access from the carpark through a breach in the enclosure wall past a burial plot. This threatens not only the enclosure wall, but can also lead to exposure of human remains as the burial is eroded.



*Above: General view showing the location of the breach in the enclosure wall allowing pedestrian access from the car park into the southern end of the graveyard.*



*Above: The impromptu entrance into the graveyard from the car park is leading to undermining and erosion of a burial at the south end of the graveyard, and exacerbating the breach through the enclosure wall at this point.*

The western (roadside) side of the enclosure contains the main entrance composed of two masonry pillars with iron gates and a damaged stile adjacent.



*Above: The principal entrance is of relatively modern date and is formed by flanking drum pillars hung with iron gates and hard paving, with a stile (arrowed) adjacent.*



*Above: The stile has collapsed but is repairable.*





*Above: The west wall of the graveyard is almost entirely obscured by vegetation.*



*Above: The pillars require minor joint filling (left) while the gate requires rust treatment and repainting if it is to be retained (right).*

### 3.6 Memorial slabs (priority works only)

A number of the memorial slabs are broken, with the detached fragments normally placed at the base of or immediately adjacent to the base of the slab. This excellent practice should be continued as it allows good potential for repair. However, while it is relatively straightforward to re-attach the slabs, **it is recommended that these works be postponed until the more urgent works to the church and the enclosure wall are complete.**



Above: General view of memorials in Faughart graveyard.



Above: The majority of the memorials in the graveyard are upright slabs bearing lichen biofilm, though occasional memorials (left) show recently removed plant growth. A small proportion of slabs (right) show cracking and loss of the upper parts of the stone.





*Above: The degree and severity of stone weathering depends on the nature of the stone from which the slab was carved. This limestone for example shows cracking and surface dissolution while lichen development is beginning to obscure the surface of the memorial.*



*Above: Broken fragments of memorials should be left as found, adjacent to the base of the slab.*

### **3.7 Saint Brigid's Bed**

The monument appears to be in reasonable condition and requires no urgent or immediate works.



*Above: General views of the horsehow-shaped Saint Brigid's Bed.*



*Above: The monument appears in reasonable condition and does not require any immediate or urgent works.*



## **5. Recommendations for Conservation, Enhancement & Interpretation of Faughart**

### **5.1 Recommendations for Conservation/Repair**

**Repairs at Fauaghart Graveyard should focus on the Church and the Enclosure Wall.** The grounds are well-maintained and while some of the memorials are broken, these are not at urgent risk and may be left until a future time. The church and the enclosure wall however are at risk of collapse and repairs should be focused on these two areas:

- **Repairs to the church should be considered as an urgent and immediate priority.**
- The enclosure wall is largely of drystone construction, but is vulnerable to invasive vegetation which can destabilise the masonry. The **breach in the south end of the enclosure** (used as access from the adjacent car park) which threatens not only the archaeologically significant enclosure wall, but also poses the risk of exposing human remains as the burial plot is eroded and **should be repaired immediately**. The **drystone stile adjacent to the main entrance gates should also be repaired**.

Consultation should be had with the National Monuments Service at an early stage to indicate the level of repairs required to safeguard the monument.

#### **5.1.1 Repairs to Faughart Church**

**All vegetation should be carefully removed from the church to allow for repointing and consolidation of the masonry.** This work should be done by the mason(s) who are to undertake the repairs as it will be necessary to repoint and consolidate the masonry with lime-based mortars immediately on removal of the vegetation. It should be noted that well-developed vegetation can be very difficult to thoroughly remove without dismantling masonry, and it is preferable to kill the larger parts of plants and allow dead root systems to remain within the masonry rather than cause damage to the archaeological significance and character of the building by dismantling and re-building. No part of the church should be dismantled, and all repairs should be undertaken on the basis of consolidating 'as found'.

Repointing and consolidation are required to conserve the monument. No speculative rebuilding of any part of the church structure should be carried out.

**All repairs should be carried out using a lime-based mortar** compatible with the weathered and fire-damaged granitic and greywacke masonry. Areas of sound pointing and especially areas of render should be retained. Any Portland Cement-based mortars should be removed from the wall. All existing stone should be consolidated in place. Where stones have fallen from the outermost leaf of the masonry wall on the north elevation of the south wall of the nave, they should be replaced face-bedded and no attempt should be made to re-align or otherwise 'improve' the masonry.

It will be necessary to entirely remove the vegetation from the wall-tops of the church to accurately determine their condition and repair needs. However, it is to be expected that in addition to consolidation, a limited amount of lime-based grout may be required, and it should be expected that a lime-based haunching should be applied to protect the top of the wall.

The collapsed section of the south wall of the nave should be consolidated using the fallen rubble. This stone should not be used in any other section of the church.

**All conservation and repair works to the church should be carried out under the supervision of an archaeologist.**

### 5.1.2 Repairs to the Enclosure Wall

The graveyard enclosure wall is threatened by invasive vegetation which can de-stabilise drystone masonry leading to local collapses. However, as the fabric is obscured by mature vegetation, it is not possible to quantify how much of the circuit of the wall requires repair. It is recommended that immediate repairs focus on the breach in the wall adjacent to the car park (currently in use as an entrance into the graveyard) which would allow the current damage to be repaired, and allow a better understanding of the likely condition of the rest of the wall.

**It is recommended that the vegetation from the southern end of the graveyard immediately adjacent to the car park be entirely removed.** It is likely that collapsed drystone rubble is contained within the vegetation and this should be retained in a safe location on site to allow repair of the breach.

The removal of the vegetation in this area should allow a programme of maintenance of the vegetation around the perimeter of the graveyard. It is envisioned that this would ideally be a programme of annual small-scale non-invasive maintenance to allow areas at risk of collapse to be identified at an early stage and planned for accordingly.

The enclosure wall should then be recorded photographically, and **repairs made in drystone to close the breach** in a manner consistent with the character and appearance of the existing stone, ideally using a matching stone (in stone type, dimension, shape and appearance) and any repairs to the graveyard wall should not detract from the character of the place.

The drystone stile adjacent to the main entrance on the west side of the graveyard enclosure should also be repaired to restore this characteristic feature of the graveyard. While the stile has largely collapsed, most of the stone remains *in situ* at the base of the wall allowing reconstruction. It should be noted that one of the cantilevered steps of the stile has split. This can be supported using a stainless steel (or similar) plate to allow the original stone to be retained in use.

### 5.1.3 Other Matters

The modern gate to the car park swings freely and cannot be easily secured, posing a risk to pedestrians and vehicles, and should be secured accordingly.

The main entrance on the west side of the enclosure requires minor repairs in the form of local pointing-up of voids in the pillar drums and treatment and painting of the iron gate (if this is to be retained).



## **5.2 Recommendations for Interpretation/Enhancement**

Faughart graveyard has a rich historical background and retains a number of archaeological monuments within the graveyard and in the immediate vicinity which are not immediately obvious to any visitors to the site. Given the proximity to the seven hundred year (1318-2018) anniversary of the Battle of Faughart and the death of Edward Bruce, last high king of Ireland, it would be appropriate to provide some interpretation to enhance visitor appreciation and awareness of the significance of the place.

It is suggested that a large information board be placed within the car park adjacent to the graveyard. This could provide a great deal of information at an appropriate scale without detracting from the appearance and character of the graveyard. This should provide information on:

- **The life of Saint Brigid** and her significance as one of the most well-known saints in Ireland.
- **The veneration of Saint Brigid at Faughart** in more recent history and up to the present day. Ideally, this would include information from the Irish Folklore Commission records and anecdotes from the present day by local people who attend services and other religious events at the site. This should refer to 'Saint Brigid's Pillar' and 'Saint Brigid's Bed' as penitential stations.
- **The Bruce Campaign 1315-1318 and the Battle of Faughart.**
- **The Church, Round Tower and High Cross** base - as the remains are fragmentary at Faughart, the information board should refer and re-direct visitors to Monasterboice, Dundalk Museum (which retains items from Faughart) and other comparable ecclesiastical sites in County Louth.
- **The Enclosure** - the information board should indicate the extent of the original ecclesiastical enclosure revealed by aerial photography, and explain the possible activity that would have occurred within a 'typical' early medieval Irish church site.
- **Faughart Motte** - the information board should outline the significance of the fortification and its commanding location, and should also refer visitors to other medieval castles in County Louth.
- **Graveyard Memorials** - the board should also note that the more recent eighteenth and nineteenth century memorials are also valuable contributors to the heritage of the area.

Within the graveyard, it is suggested that smaller information panels not be included, and that the interior is left as uncluttered as possible. However, it would be appropriate to provide a small information panel immediately within the entrance gates. This should contain a labelled map showing the location of each of the points of interest within the graveyard.

## Endnotes

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- <sup>1</sup> Pavia, S. and Bolton, J. (2000) *Stone Brick and Mortar: historical use, decay and conservation of building materials in Ireland*. Bray. Wordwell books.
- <sup>2</sup> Pavia, S. and Bolton, J. (2001) *Stone Monuments Decay Study 2000: an assessment of the degree of erosion and degradation of a sample of stone monuments in Ireland*. Kilkenny. The Heritage Council.
- <sup>3</sup> Fitzner, B. & Heinrichs, K. (2002) "Damage diagnosis on stone monuments – weathering forms, damage categories and damage indices". In Viles, H.A. and Přikryl, R. *Understanding and managing stone decay*. The Karolinum Press.
- <sup>4</sup> Van Hees, R.J., Binda, L., Papayianni, I. & Toubakari, E. (2004) "Characterisation and damage analysis of old mortars", *Materials and Structures*, Vol. 37, Pp.644-648
- <sup>5</sup> Ashurst, J. (2007) *Conservation of Ruins*. Butterworth-Heinemann series on Conservation and Museology. London. Elsevier.
- <sup>6</sup> Quinlan, M., Hanna, M. & Kelly, D. (2010) *Ruins - the conservation and repair of masonry ruins*. Dublin. Stationery Office.
- <sup>7</sup> Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. (2004) Architectural Heritage Protection: guidelines for planning authorities – guidance on Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000.
- <sup>8</sup> Brendan Smith (1989) "The Bruce Invasion and County Louth, 1315-18", *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society*, Vol. 22, No. 1 (1989), pp. 7-15; Donald Murphy (1992) "The Distribution of Early Christian Monastic Sites and Its Implications for Contemporary Secular Settlement in County Louth", *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society*, Vol. 22, No. 4 (1992), pp. 364-386
- <sup>9</sup> Cooney & Condit noted: "The name Faughart is linked to the ancient tales relating the legendary feats of the mythological hero Cu Chulainn. One suggested etymology is that the name may derive from *Focherd Muirthemne*, 'the good cast of Muirthemne' referring to a story that Cu Chulainn had cast a split holly tree that hit Ferbaeth, his foster-brother, in the back of the neck, passing through and out of his mouth. Another suggestion is that the name derives from *Focerd*, 'the good art', referring to another CuChulainn tale in which the Ulster hero kills fourteen men in single combat.
- <sup>10</sup> Stanley Howard (1906) "Faughart, County Louth, and Its Surroundings", *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, Fifth Series, Vol. 36, No. 1, [Fifth Series, Vol. 16] (Mar. 31, 1906), pp. 59-75; H. G. Tempest (1958) "The Moyry Pass", *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological Society*, Vol. 14, No. 2 (1958), pp. 82-90
- <sup>11</sup> Connor, L. (1966) "Faughart Investigation, 1966", *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological Society*, Vol. 16, No. 2 (1966), pp. 125-129
- <sup>12</sup> Buckley, A. (2003) "The medieval office of St Brigit", Ryan, Salvador; Leahy, Brendan (ed.), *Treasures of Irish Christianity, volume II : a people of the word* (Dublin : Veritas, 2013; Bray, Dorothy Ann, (2010) "Ireland's other apostle: Cogitosus' St Brigit", *Cambrian Medieval Celtic Studies*, Vol.59, Pp.55-70; Ritari, Katja (2010) "The image of Brigit as a saint: reading the Latin lives", *Peritia*, Vol.21, Pp.191-207; Wright, Brian (2010) "Did St Brigid visit Glastonbury?", *History Ireland*, Vol.18:1, Pp.14-17; Bitel, Lisa M. (2009) *Landscape with two saints : how Genovefa of Paris and Brigit of Kildare built Christianity in barbarian Europe*. Oxford. Oxford University Press; Swift, Catherine (2006) "Brigid, Patrick and the Kings of Kildare A.D. 640-850", Nolan, William; McGrath, Thomas (ed.), *Kildare : history and society : interdisciplinary essays on the history of an Irish county* (Dublin: Geography Publications. Pp.96-128; Harrington, C. (2002) *Women in a Celtic Church*. Oxford. Oxford University Press; Sean O'Riordan (1951) "The Cult of Saint Brigid", *The Furrow*, Vol. 2, No. 2 (Feb., 1951), pp. 88-93
- <sup>13</sup> There is a considerable literature on Saint Brigid, with summary information on Saint Brigid found online at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brigit\\_of\\_Kildare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brigit_of_Kildare)
- <sup>14</sup> Penman, M. (2014) *Robert the Bruce - King of the Scots*. New Haven & London. Yale University Press; Victor M. Buckley (2014) "To kill a king", *Archaeology Ireland*, Vol. 28, No. 3 (Autumn 2014), pp. 33-3; Duffy, S. (2002) *Robert the Bruce's Irish wars : the invasions of Ireland 1306-1329*. Stroud : Tempus; Colm McNamee (1993) "The Bruce Invasions of Ireland", *History Ireland*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (Spring, 1993), pp. 11-16; Brendan Smith (1989) "The Bruce Invasion and County Louth, 1315-18" *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society* Vol. 22, No. 1 (1989), pp. 7-15
- <sup>15</sup> Penman, M. (2014) *Robert the Bruce - King of the Scots*. New Haven & London. Yale University Press. P 189
- <sup>16</sup> Buckley, *ibid*.



<sup>17</sup>Source:<http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php#c=Louth&indexOfObjectValue=-1&indexOfObjectValueSubstring=-1>

<sup>18</sup> Source: <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php#bm=Dundalk&c=Louth&indexOfObjectValue=-1&indexOfObjectValueSubstring=-1>

<sup>19</sup> The cropmark is visible on aerial photograph (CUCAP, ALK 22).

<sup>20</sup> Connor,, *ibid*.P.125

<sup>21</sup> Lalor, B. (1999) *The Irish Round Tower*. Cork. Collins Press. Pp184-5

<sup>22</sup> A number of other memorials are known - Henry Morris "A Faughart Monument", *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological Society*, Vol. 3, No. 1 (Dec., 1912), pp. 28-29

<sup>23</sup> These records are not yet available online at <http://www.duchas.ie/en/plc>

<sup>24</sup> Diarmuid Mac Iomhair, D. (1968) "Townland Survey of County Loth (Continued)", *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological Society*, Vol. 16, No. 4 (1968), pp. 254-263

<sup>25</sup> Connor,, *ibid*.P.126

<sup>26</sup> Penman, *ibid* P 189

<sup>27</sup> Buckley, *ibid*. P.35

<sup>28</sup> This argument was advanced by David Sweetman who noted substantial stone fortifications at Faughart, Ash Big, Castlering and Stormanstown in County Couth. Dweetman, D. (1999) *The Medieval Castles of Ireland*. Cork. Collins. P.31

<sup>29</sup> MacIomhair *ibid*.