



PART 8 TEMPLEMARTIN GRAVEYARD EXT – COMMENTS ON EXCAVATION REPORT – HERITAGE UNIT, CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

APPLICANT: CORK CO CO

ENQUIRY DATE: 14/06/2023 (Geraldine O Mahony by email)

RESPONSE DATE: 19/06/2023 (Annette Quinn by email)

SITE LOCATION: TEMPLEMARTIN

TOWNLAND: TEMPLEMARTIN, GARRANES

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: Ext to graveyard, carpark and assoc. works (Part 8)

APPLICANTS AGENT: Exc. Report written by Julianna O Donoghue (Mizen)

The works relate to the extension to an existing Church and Graveyard at Templemartin, Cork (SMR CO096-008001).

Observations:

I have read the archaeological excavation report written by Julianna O Donoghue (Mizen Archaeology, March 2023). To date an archaeological impact assessment (AIA), including a programme of archaeological testing and geophysical survey produced two areas of archaeological potential. These two areas of archaeological potential were exposed and upon further investigation, it was found that the features in Area 1 were of natural origin. Area 2 is situated along the northern edge of the site. A baulk (buffer) (average 3m wide) was left in-situ on the northern limit of the excavation, to prevent any impacts on the upstanding graveyard wall. A ditch (C7) was visible for a length of 15m within Area 2, though it extended beyond the limits of excavation in both directions. It measured c. 3m in width and 1.35m in depth. It contained 10 fills and displayed evidence of re-cutting. The geophysical survey did not detect any evidence of an enclosure surrounding the existing church and graveyard. Although it is not represented on historic mapping the ditch appears to correspond with a cropmark shown on aerial footage forming part of a large linear field system (O Donoghue, 2023). A charcoal sample from the basal fill taken during archaeological testing returned an Early Medieval date of cal. 712 AD.

Recommendations / Conclusions

The recommendations of the archaeological excavation are such that *'all of the features within the proposed development have been excavated (resolved) with the exception of a 3m buffer zone between the existing graveyard and the extension. It is recommended that the extension to the graveyard proceed without further archaeological input'*.

I concur with the recommendations of the report in that no further archaeological intervention is required. The excavated ditch / fosse as detailed above extends into the 3m unexcavated area / buffer and therefore should remain *in situ*. The Part 8 application should include the Archaeological Impact Assessment, the Geophysical Survey Report, the Archaeological testing report and the Final Archaeological Excavation report which when read together form an overall Archaeological Assessment.

- **The 3m buffer indicated on Drawing WC-20-004-03 should be fenced off prior to the commencement of site works and remain in place until completion of the groundworks. This will also serve to protect the southern graveyard wall during construction.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annette Quinn'.