

# Archaeological Impact Assessment

## Proposed Development of a Community, Tourism and Enterprise Hub

St. Coleman's, former Church of Ireland, Castle Street, Macroom, Co. Cork

Prepared in Support of a Part VIII Planning Application

Recorded Monument – Cork RMP CO071-050002-

Protected Structure – Macroom RPS20

**Promoter:** Macroom Municipal District Office  
**Cork County Council**  
Macroom Town Hall,  
The Square,  
Macroom,  
Co. Cork.

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**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021

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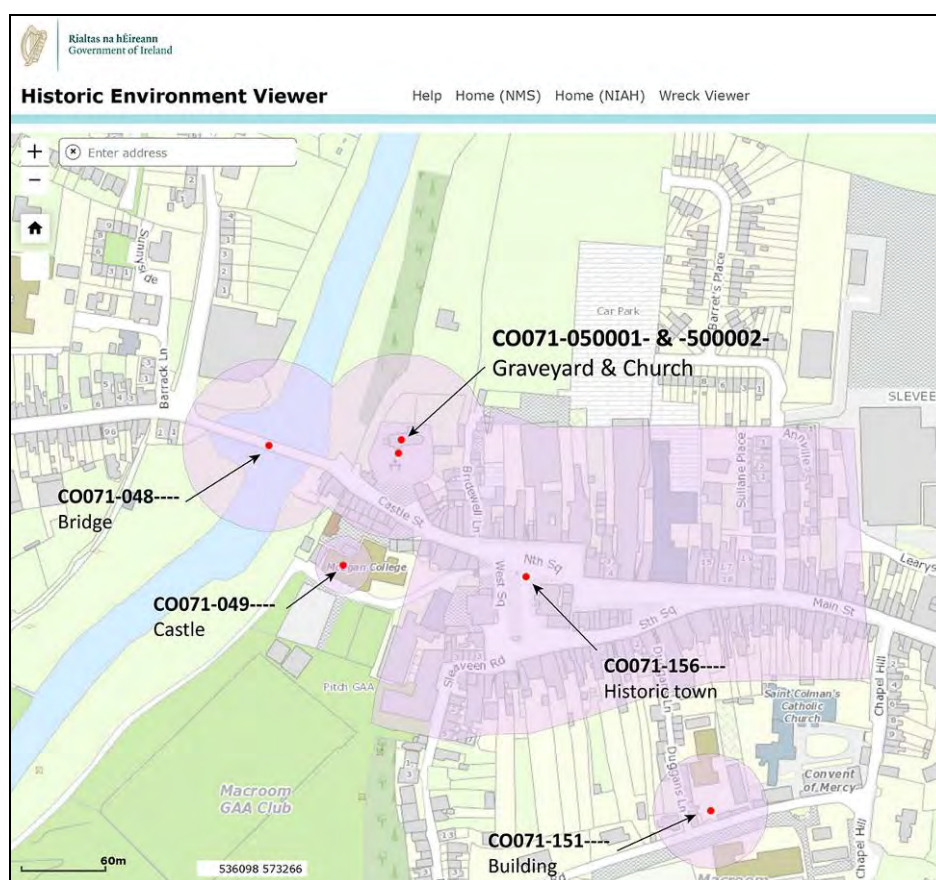
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## 1. Introduction

Daniel Noonan Archaeological Consultancy (DNAC) has prepared this Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of the proposed redevelopment of the former St. Coleman's Church of Ireland parish church off Castle Street, Macroom, into a community hub facility for community, tourism and enterprise uses (see **Figure 1**).

It has been prepared to accompany a Part VIII Planning Application for this development, by the Architect's Department of Cork County Council (**Figures 2-3**).



**Figure 1:** Location of the St. Coleman's, annotated on a screengrab of the National Monuments Service's *Historic Environment Viewer*, accessed 26/11/2021.

The pink shaded areas are the Zones of Archaeological Notification/Potential (ZAPs) of each monument, represented by the red dot.

St. Coleman's is the former parish church of Macroom, and the standing building is very much in the 'First Fruits' architectural church building style - a long rectangular structure with a tower to the west. The church was extensively remodelled in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century; however, the tower may come from an earlier church on the site.

St. Coleman's is entered in the Record of Monuments & Places (RMP) for Cork under reference CO071-050002-; while its surrounding graveyard is entered under CO071-050001- (**Figure 4**).

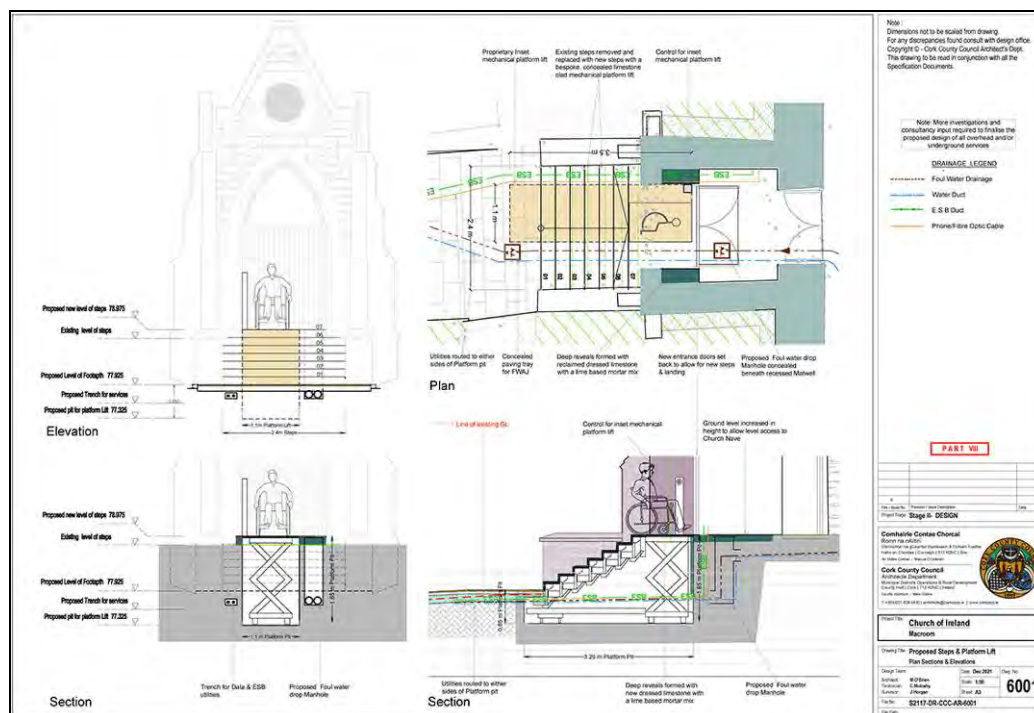
The church is a Protected Structure, entered in the Record of Protected Structures as RPS 20 in the *Macroom Town Development Plan 2008-2015* (still in effect). It is also entered in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage under registration number 20852022, with a regional rating.





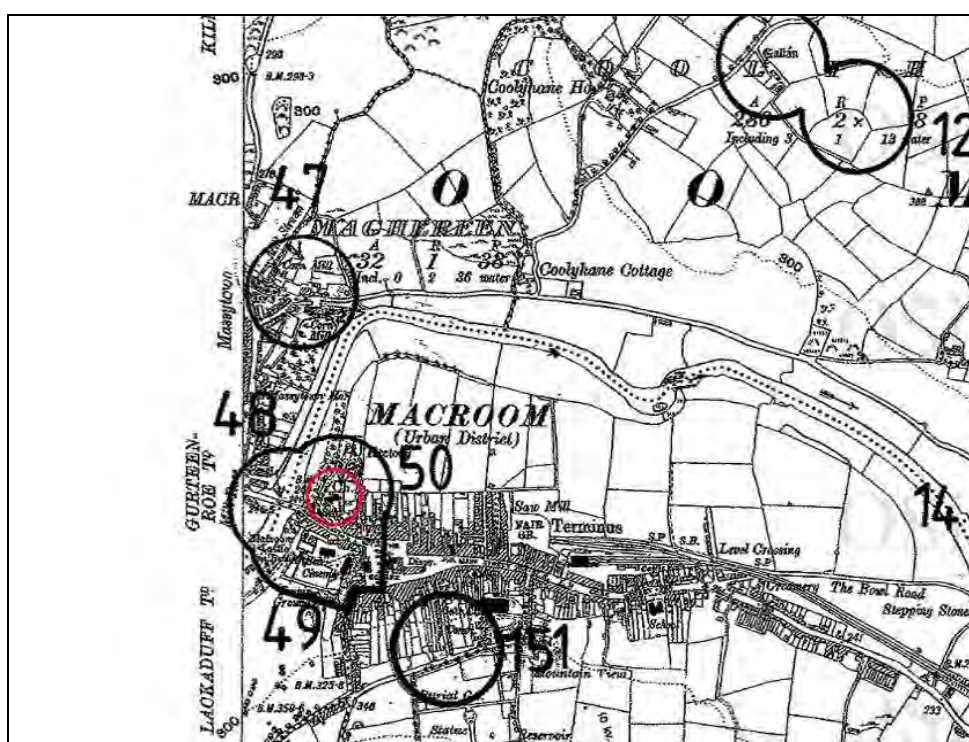
Given St. Coleman's status as a Recorded Monument, all development works proposed for the church require archaeological oversight.

This appraisal should be read in conjunction with the design proposal prepared by the Architects Department of Cork County Council, and the ancillary Condition Reports prepared by Design Forum Architects, and Ray Keane & Associates Consulting Engineers.



**Figure 3:** Proposed Steps and Platform Lift arrangements.

Courtesy of the Architects Department, Cork County Council.



**Figure 4:** Location of St. Coleman's circled in red, on an extract from the Record of Monuments and Places for County Cork, 1997, Sheet 071.

## 2. Assessment Methodology

This non-intrusive assessment of the proposed works to St. Coleman's was conducted through background research into the location, known archaeological monuments, historical resources, and available historical mapping. The research was supported by inspection of the church and graveyard, and its environs.

The sources consulted include the listings of National Monuments, Preservation Orders, Register of Historic Monuments, the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for County Cork (1997), and the unpublished Post-Medieval Survey Records County Cork 1982-1996. In addition, the online databases of the National Monuments Service (NMS), the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), and the Placename Database of Ireland (logainm.ie) were consulted; along with the National Monuments Service (NMS) Archive. Documentary sources such as local histories and antiquarian journals were also reviewed.

The desk study incorporates the results of the background research and site inspection to form this evaluation of the proposed redevelopment works at St. Coleman's.

## 3. Proposed Development Works

Cork County Council's Architects Department were sought to prepare a Part VIII Planning Application submission, for the development of a new community, tourism and enterprise hub in the former Church of Ireland Macroom parish church, St. Coleman's, Castle Street, Macroom. The proposed works to the former church are designed to accommodate the new community facility, and acquire retention for the partially completed 1994 rear extension. The proposal includes:

- Ground floor: entrance and multi-purpose room associated with community and enterprise uses, with the potential to facilitate recitals and events; ancillary facilities including toilets, storage, new stairs to both tower and rear extension.
- First and second floor: café/tea station and meeting area in rear extension with mezzanine to large open nave space, provision of a new staircase in the tower to offer viewing landing area with a view to the town centre to the south and east, town park and the River Sullane to the west.
- Provision for all vertical and horizontal circulation, stairs, ramps, chair lift, etc.
- Ancillary services areas to provide storage, plant, toilets and general circulation.
- Site development works surrounding the church and traversing the graveyard are designed to be minimally invasive, to avoid potential disturbance of in situ burials.
- New foul and fresh water connections are required, to bring services to and from the incomplete extension to the northeast, through the church space. An internal service

trench will be excavated in the existing concrete floor of the church, and the external trenching through the rearrangement of the porch steps for the access lift. The new service trench will follow the existing path, and will be kept sufficiently shallow to avoid impacting on any potential in situ burials that are present.

- A new wheelchair lift will be installed, within the rising steps of the south side porch.
- The existing gravel footpath will be replaced with selected limestone pavers, set on a cementitious base over geotextile material; the intention being to provide a stable gradient for wheelchair users.
- On street bike parking spaces, and bin storage, will be provided at the Church gate entrance.

A suite of design proposal drawings have been prepared by the Architect's Department, and are included in the planning submission and should be consulted. The most relevant information regarding the proposed ground disturbance activities can be found in the general arrangement of ground works drawing and the platform lift details, reproduced as **Figures 2-3** above.

#### **4. St. Coleman's – Protections, Historical Context, & Development**

##### Archaeological Protections & Designations

The proposed works are to an ecclesiastical complex that is of archaeological interest, the church and graveyard of St. Coleman's, Recorded Monuments CO071-050002- and CO071-050001- respectively.

The creation of the Record of Monuments and Places forms part of Section 12 of the National Monuments Act, as amended in 1994; and inclusion in it is currently the primary mechanism for protection of archaeological sites and monument in the State. Any works to, or close by (i.e. within the ZAP), a site or monument entered in the RMP requires notification to the National Monuments Service (NMS) at least two months in advance. Any works to, or close by (i.e. within the ZAP), of a National Monument requires the Consent of the relevant Minister, currently the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

In the instance of ground disturbances, the minimum requirement of the NMS is for archaeological monitoring attendance to such works; further assessment, avoidance of archaeological features to ensure preservation in situ, or preservation by record though excavation, are other potential scenarios.

Guidance on current State policy for archaeology can be found in the *Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* (1999) document.

### Development Control Policies

The development plan prepared by the former Macroom Town Council (2008) - the *Macroom Development Plan 2009-2015* remains in effect until the forthcoming Cork County Development Plan 2022 becomes policy. Among the development control policies' regarding archaeological heritage in the Macroom plan are:

#### **AP1**

*Preserve and protect the archaeological sites listed in this plan along with any archaeological remains discovered but not yet recorded.*

#### **AP2**

*Support access to sites of archaeological importance, if appropriate, within Macroom with the cooperation of the various landowners on which sites are located.*

#### **AP3**

*Support the provision of amenity walkways which would link as much as possible the various archaeological sites within the Macroom area.*

#### **AP4**

*Ensure that proposed developments that may, due to their size, location or nature, have implications on the archaeological heritage of the plan area, are subject to a full archaeological assessment. Such an assessment will ensure that the development is designed in a way as to avoid or minimise any potential effects on archaeological features. The Council shall consult with the National Monuments Service of the DoEHLG [now part of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage].*

#### **AP5**

*Ensure that any direct impacts on national monuments in State or Local Authority care or subject to a preservation order will require the consent of the Minister for the Environment Heritage and Local Government under Section 14 of the National Monuments Act 1930 as amended by Section 5 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004 [now in the remit of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage].*

Cork County Council's current development control policies' regarding archaeological heritage are contained in the *Cork County Development Plan 2014*. The policies regarding archaeology relevant to the St. Coleman's project are:

#### **HE 3-1: Protection of Archaeological Sites**

*a) Safeguard sites and settings, features and objects of archaeological interest generally.*

*b) Secure the preservation (i.e. preservation in situ or in exceptional cases preservation by record) of all archaeological monuments including the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) (see [www.archeology.ie](http://www.archeology.ie)) and the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994, as amended and of sites, features and objects of archaeological and historical interest generally.*

*In securing such preservation, the planning authority will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht as*



outlined in the Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage.

### **HE 3-3: Zones of Archaeological Potential**

Protect the Zones of Archaeological Potential (ZAPs) located within historic towns and other urban areas and around archaeological monuments generally. Any development within the ZAPs will need to take cognisance of the potential for subsurface archaeology and if archaeology is demonstrated to be present appropriate mitigation (such as preservation in situ/buffer zones) will be required.

### **HE 3-4 Industrial and Post Medieval Archaeology**

Protect and preserve the archaeological value of industrial and post medieval archaeology such as mills, limekilns, bridges, piers, harbours, penal chapels and dwellings. Proposals for refurbishment, works to or redevelopment/conversion of these sites should be subject to careful assessment.

## Macroom Town

The market town of Macroom, historically known as *Macromp* and phonetic spelling variations of it are to be found in various documentary sources that derive from the Irish name of *Maigh Chromtha*. The town encompasses the townlands, or parts of, Sleveen East, Lackaduff, Gurteenroe, Killnagurteen (formerly called Mountmassy) and Maghereen; all in the civil parish of Macroom, in the Cork barony of West Muskerry. The historic town (Recorded Monument CO071-156----) straddles the Sullane River, having developed at an earlier fording point in the river that is today marked by the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century arched stone road bridge (CO071-048----) that crosses from Sleveen East to Gurteenroe.

The online National Monuments Service database (Historic Environment Viewer - <https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/> - accessed 26/11/2021) describes Macroom as follows:

*A small settlement is marked on the Down Survey (1655-6) Barony map on the E side of the Sullane River and in the vicinity of the present day town of Macroom (Maigh Chromtha). The terrier of the Down Survey Map of Muskerry Barony recorded that, 'The places of note are the towne and castle of Macrumpre [Macroom] being a market towne, one of the places of residence of the Lord Muskry, the castle being a faire and strong pile with a bane [bawn], divers houses a fort and severall offices' (Hib. Reg.). The historic town of Croom is depicted as a cluster of dwellings arranged in a linear fashion to the E of Macroom Castle (CO071-049----) and Church (CO071-050002-) on the 1655-9 Down Survey map of Macroom parish (NLI, Ms. 712-3). The terrier of the Down Survey parish map recorded in 'this Parish is the Castle and Towne of Mackrompe [Macroom] consisting of severall good Towne Houses and large cabins and in the same is a Marckett kept once every weeke' (ibid.). The present Main Street follows the line of the linear settlement depicted on the Down Survey parish map.*

According to Zajac et al. (1995, 67) 'a settlement may have existed in Macroom during the 13<sup>th</sup> century when a castle was built here adjacent to a fording point on the Sullane river. Until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century the town was the joint property of the Earl of Bandon and Robert Hedges Eyre. It became the sole property of the latter who

was responsible for several improvements in the town including the rebuilding of the present market house and alterations to the castle transforming it into a modern mansion. Among the industries established in Macroom in the 18th century were a distillery and a woollen mill. Rock salt was also brought from England via Cork and distributed from the town for use in salting butter for export. In the 19th century flour mills and tanyards were established.'

The place name origin of Macroom derives from the Irish *Maigh Chromtha*, which has been variously translated as the 'crooked ford' or 'sloping plain leading the river.' This is a topographical reference to a feature in the Sullane River where an historic crossing ford was located (see <https://www.logainm.ie/11513.aspx> - accessed 26/11/2021). The earliest record of the name in is from the *Annals of Inis Fallen*, with the name variation of *Mugi Cromtha* record in 1291 (ibid.).



**Figure 5:** Extract from the Down Survey map of the parish of Maccrompe, circa 1656.

Note this map is orientated with West to the top, and Macroom Castle to the right of the Sullane River, with the liner spread of stone houses and mud cabins that form the historic town to the bottom.

To the left of the bridge is the church, circled in red, and its associated glebe lands of two plantation acres above it.

Water powered mills, in what in the 18th Century would be developed as the suburb of Masseytown, are also depicted.

The core of the historic town is to the east of the bridge, in Sleeveen East townland, and the principal street – Main Street terminates with a market square to the west before the road continues westward down Castle Street and onto the bridge. There may have been settlement here from the 13th Century onwards, when a castle was first built on the site of present-day Macroom Castle around 1260 AD. The castle is variously attributed to either the Anglo-Norman De Cogan family by James N. Healy (*Castles of County Cork* 1988, 60-61), or to the Carew family by Samuel Lewis (*Topographical Dictionary* 1837).

To the west of the bridge is the early modern suburb of Masseytown. In the past the suburb may have been the site of ephemeral occupation on the western side of the river crossing; however, there is no known physical evidence for settlement here earlier than the 18th Century. The Masseytown name comes from the landed estate of Mount Massy House, built by the Hutchinson family in the mid-18th Century, which is located 1.1km northwest of the bridge. Corn and flour mills developed from the late 18th and into the 19th Century north of

the bridge, under the patronage of the Walton family. Macroon Courthouse was purpose built in Masseytown to a design by George Richard Pain, along with the associated bridewell, both *circa.* 1826. The Macroon workhouse was also located in Masseytown, and dates from *circa.* 1843.

The castle and the area around Macroon came into the possession of the Gaelic Irish McCarthy clan (the MacCarthy's of Muskerry) in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. This came about as part of the weakening of the Anglo-Norman colony in Ireland, due to internecine fighting amongst the Anglo-Norman landowners, the Bruce invasion (1315-1318) and a corresponding famine, and the arrival of the Black Death (1348-1350). Macroon remained under the influence of the McCarthy's into the late 17<sup>th</sup> Century when their support for the unsuccessful Jacobite cause in the Williamite-Jacobite War of 1688-1691 led to the surrender of the majority of their lands. Macroon came into the possession of the Hedges-Eyre family in the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century, and they assumed residence in the castle and set about improving the town.



**Figure 6:** Extract from the historic Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 1844 edition mapping, showing the church and graveyard; along with the Rectory/glebe house located to the north on the glebe lands that ran along the bank of the Sullane River.

Glebe lands were for growing food for the benefit of the clergy attached to the church and glebe house.

This arrangement of church and glebe lands reflects that shown on the earlier Down Survey mapping.

### Origin & Development of St. Coleman's Church

The online National Monuments Service database (Historic Environment Viewer - <https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/> - accessed 26/11/2021) describes St. Coleman's church and the graveyard, as follows:

*In graveyard (CO071-050002-), in Macroon town; former C of I parish church of Macroon. Church consists of rectangular nave with shallow apse, entrance porch near W end of S wall and 2-storey tower attached at centre of W gable. Nave lit by three windows in S wall with perpendicular-style tracery; apse lit by four pointed lancets; some late 19th/early 20th-century stained glass. Limestone baptismal font of 19th-century appearance. Apse buttressed; porch and tower have clasped*



*buttresses, formerly surmounted by pinnacles. First floor of tower has louvred apes for bell loft. Described by Lewis (1837, vol. 2, 329) as 'a small modern edifice in the later English style, with an enriched porch, and is attached to the tower of the ancient structure'. This latter may be structure 'in good repair' in 1669 (Brady 1863, vol. 2, 318). Church itself described as 'rebuilt' in 1824 (ibid., 321); attributed to George Richard Pain (Killanin and Duignan 1962, 364). Nave contains memorial plaque dated 1712, noted by Smith (1750, vol. 1, 181). Nave and tower may have been extensively remodelled in 1824, when apse and porch added. Interior remodelled again in 1898 (Cole 1903, 232). Deconsecrated in 1990 and currently (1994) undergoing renovation as visitor centre.*

*In Macroom town, on N side of Castle Street; roughly square graveyard (L c. 40m), in occasional use. On N side, former C of I parish church of Macroom (CO071-050002-), on site of ancient parish church; now undergoing renovation as visitor centre. Inscribed headstones date from 1780s (McDonnell 1917, 20).*

St. Coleman's Church is dedicated to the memory of the patron saint of the Diocese of Cloyne, Saint Colmán. The present church is more than likely located on the site of the medieval parish church of Macroom, on a dominant, elevated site close to the castle, which is visible from the medieval crossing point of the river, and the wide market place to the east of the castle. Cartographic and documentary sources indicate the presence of a church here since at least the mid-17<sup>th</sup> Century; and the core of the existing tower may be what survives of the medieval parish church.

As demonstrated in **Figure 5** above, the Down Survey of 1656-1658 shows the church, and its associated glebe lands, as the parish church for Macroom.

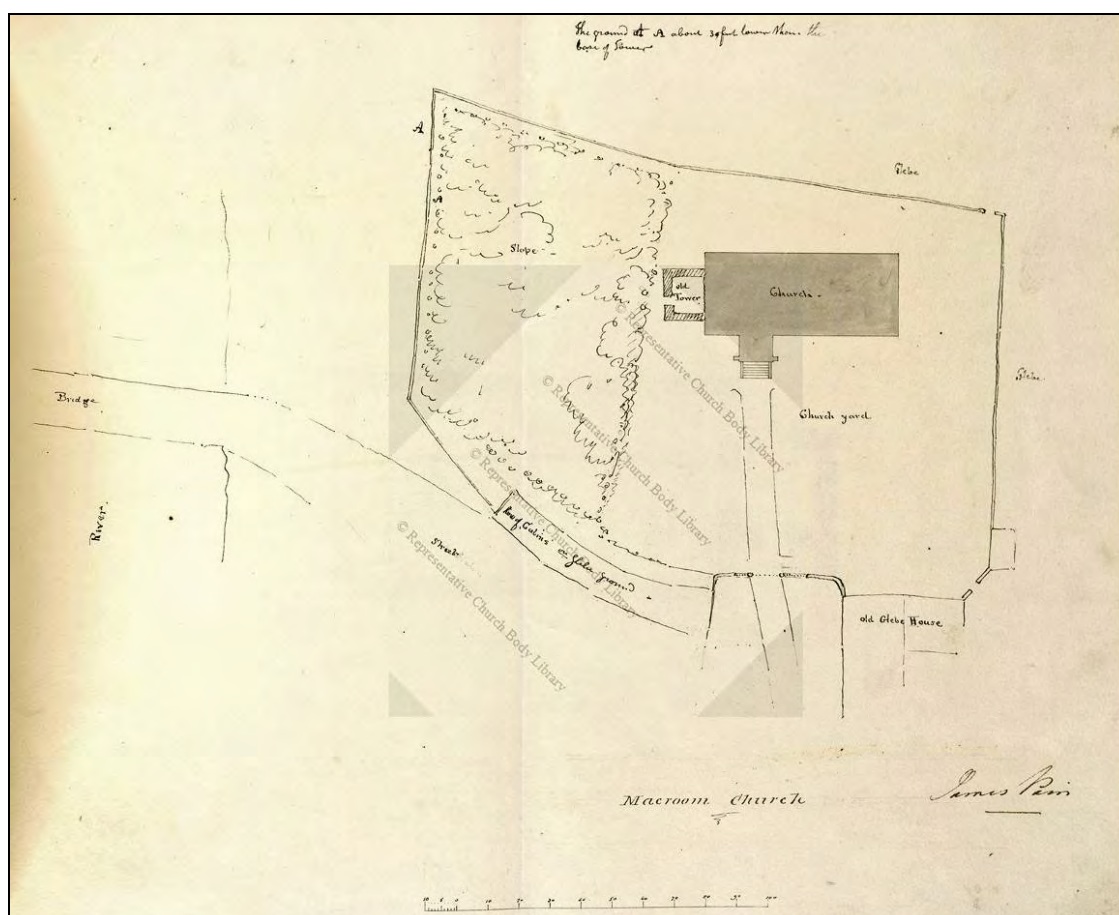
Brady's *Clerical and Parochial Records of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross* (1863) suggests that the church was intact in the late 17<sup>th</sup> Century, with a succession of occupant rectors and vicars; including the Rev. Richard Browne, who was vicar for 45 years, until his death, and subsequent burial in the church, in January 1712 (Brady 1863, Vol. 2, .319). It is described as 'church in repair' in 1774; while the glebe house occupied the building that is now the Church Lane restaurant, in the outer ward outside the graveyard gate (ibid. 321; see **Photograph 2** below).

He further records that the church was substantially rebuilt in 1824, with a capacity for 313 worshipers (ibid.). This is the church we have today, and the capacity was spread across the ground floor pew boxes shown on the earliest surveys of the site, and in gallery pews at first floor level. This substantial building work was conducted with a loan of £923, 1s, 6½d. from the Board of First Fruits (ibid.). The work was carried within the context of a rapid golden age of Church of Ireland church building, supported by the Board of First Fruits. The programme, running from the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century to 1834, created the distinctive 'hall and tower' architectural style of small, predominantly rural parish churches that consist of a rectangular single storey body and attached 2/3 storey west tower. This style is not dissimilar from some medieval parish churches that had a tower at the west end of the rectangular body, to provide accommodation for the priest and function as a belfry.



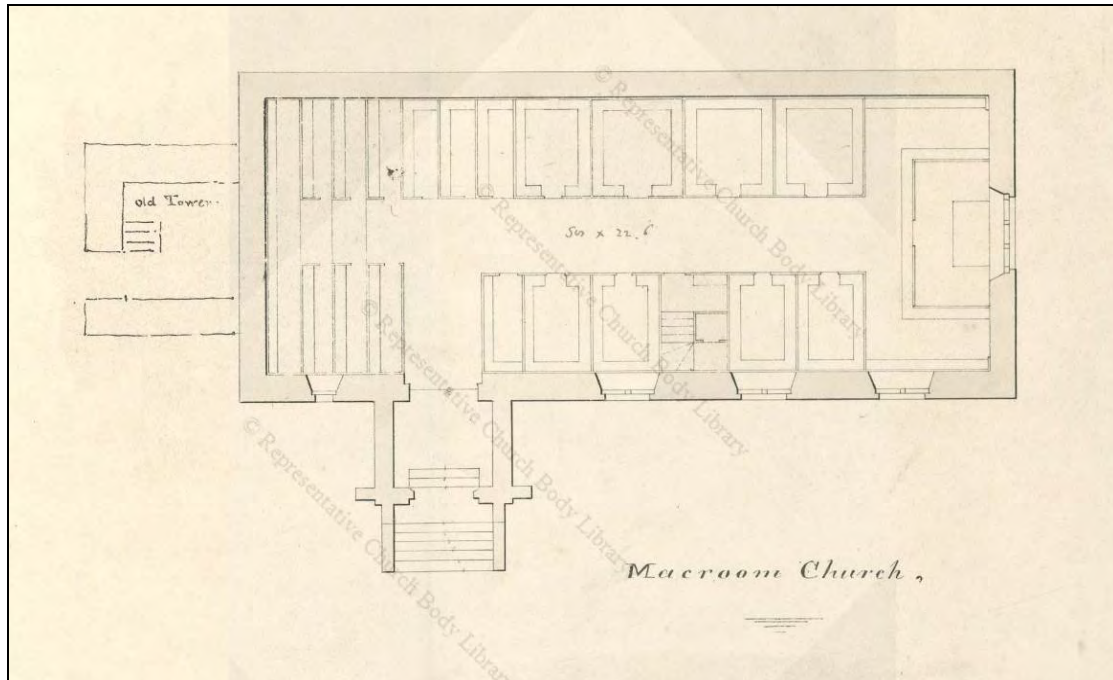
In 1860 the church and the associated glebe house – the Rectory to the north of the church (see **Figure 6**) are recorded as being in order. Construction of the Rectory commenced around 1806; while the house used as a glebe next to the graveyard gate had been condemned as being unfit in 1832. It is recorded as the 'old Glebe House' in James Pain's survey of the graveyard in 1835 (see **Figure 7**).

The Representative Church Body (RCB) is the repository of the surviving surveys and development drawings for the Board of First Fruits. The board was an 18<sup>th</sup> Century Church of Ireland body charged with the building and maintenance of new and existing churches and glebe-house for the accommodation of the clergy, from 1711 to 1834 (see <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/about/rcb-library/catalogues/representative-church-body-records>). For St. Coleman's, the RCB holds the 1835 drawings by James Pain of the church, as rebuilt in 1824. Following on from that, the changes in the internal layout, and additions to the building footprint (in response to changes in the forms of worship and liturgical needs in the through Church of Ireland in 19<sup>th</sup> Century) can be found in the drawings of Welland and Gillespie.



**Figure 7:** RCB manuscript, identifier i\_ms1380218701, a plan of St. Coleman's church and graveyard in 1835, signed by James Pain. It indicates the location of the old Glebe house outside the graveyard gate, and the row of cabins that once occupied the present-day open space to west of the gate.

The rebuilding of St. Coleman's is attributed to the Pain brothers, architects James and George. In 1823 James was the architect for Munster for the Board of First Fruits, and George was his assistant. The plan form of the St. Coleman's Church fits well in the established 'hall and tower' format of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Century First Fruit churches.



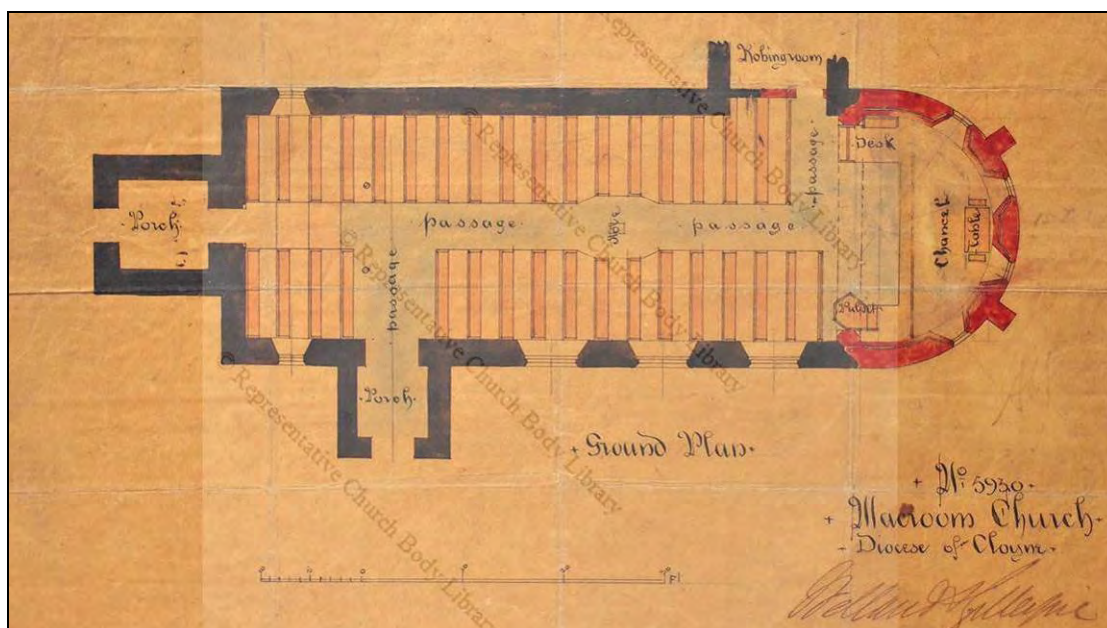
**Figure 8:** RCB manuscript, identifier i\_ms1380218503, a plan of St. Coleman's church dated 1835.

The 1824 church is a simple east to west orientated rectangular box plan, with a two stage tower to the west (**Figure 8**), typical of the 'hall and tower' First Fruits churches. The survey shows the form of the 1824 rebuild and its internal arrangement. The space is arranged into benches at the west end, and an array of different sized family box pews along the north and south walls. The pulpit was between the first and second of the double-light windows on the south side, and was the focus of the congregation. The communion table is located at the east end, beneath the east window, on what is likely to be a raised dais with a railing defining its extents. This arrangement reflects the sermon and preaching from the pulpit-based form of worship in Church of Ireland liturgy that dominated up to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century.

The survey notes the west tower as the 'old tower,' and the lack of detailed record of it suggests that it was out of use, and perhaps in ruin? Alternatively, it is ignored as the south side porch is the formal entrance to the church, and not the bottom of the tower that was the more traditional point of entry in the First Fruits churches. Following on from the 1835 survey, the tower was remodelled, with the decorative neo-Gothic squared-headed windows with hood mouldings added (Keohane 2020, 490-491), along with the buttresses to the corners, and rebuilding of the upper portion of battlement top.

As the 19<sup>th</sup> Century progressed, changes in liturgy and the forms of worship changed in the Church of Ireland saw additions to St. Coleman's and changes to the internal layout, as recorded in the Welland and Gillespie surveys in the RCB archive (see **Figure 9**). Welland and

Gillespie were the joint architects to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, which replaced the Board of First Fruits after 1834. In their 1869 survey of the church, commissioned to design the apse addition to the east end, the sacristy/robing room was already present to the northeast corner. This addition reflects the changing emphasis to more ceremony centred on the east end altar (as opposed to simpler communion table) that was becoming prevalent from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Welland and Gillespie's design of the apse to the east end created a larger space, to give sanctity and separation to the altar and the liturgical ceremonies that took place there (reflective of the chancel of the medieval churches).

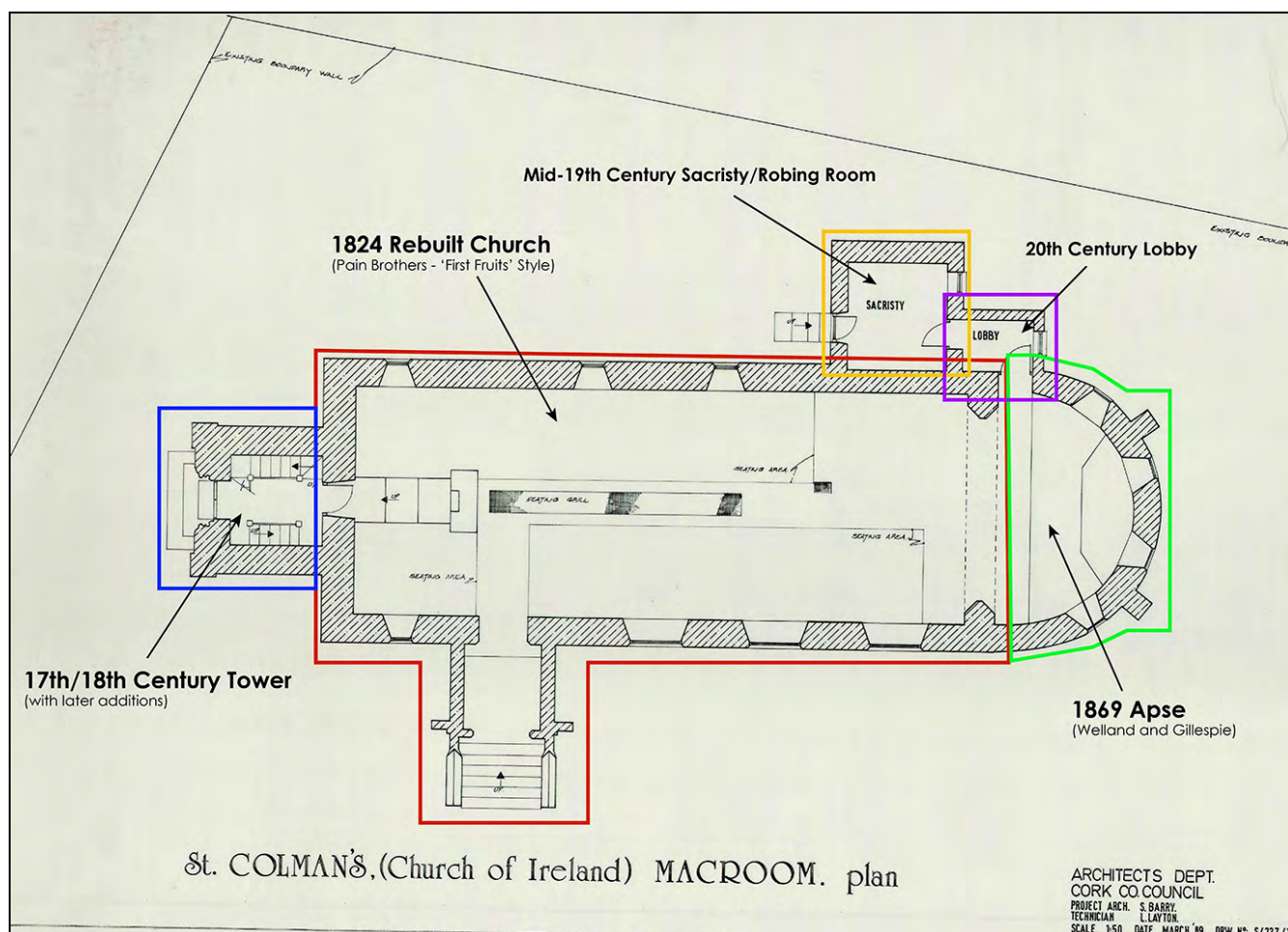


**Figure 9:** Extract from the RCB manuscript drawing, identifier i\_ms00502100502, a plan of St. Coleman's church in July 1869, signed by Welland and Gillespie.

In addition to the apse, the 1869 survey shows the rearrangement of the seating. Gone are the pew boxes; replaced with benches orientated to the east end, where the pulpit has been relocated, the apse added as a chancel, and a reader's desk introduced on the north side. It also shows the reintroduction of the porch/entrance through the west tower; while other (not illustrated here) versions of the survey indicate the presence of an underground heating system in the aisle – a stove and metal grill-covered channel running down the middle.

St. Coleman's maintained this layout, with the addition of a small lobby connecting the chancel and the sacristy/robing room added sometime in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century; until it was deconsecrated and closed for worship in 1991. Ownership of the church was transferred to Macroon Urban District Council in September 1992; however the 1989 survey of it by Cork County Architects Department in 1989 (**Figure 10**) suggests that the transfer was in motion for some time. That survey has been annotated to provide a preliminary construction phase plan for St. Coleman's.





**Figure 10:** Cork County Council's 1989 survey of St. Coleman's, with the development phases indicated.

### Excavations Database

As part of the background research into the site and its environs, the online excavations database (<https://excavations.ie/> - accessed 26/11/2021) was consulted. No archaeological excavations have taken place in the St. Coleman's church and graveyard complex. However, the site of the old Glebe house in the outer ward was test excavated as part of the development of an extension to Sextons Lodge, now the Church Lane Restaurant (Miller 2011). The summary of the excavation is as follows:

*Pre-development testing was carried out on 8 March 2011 to the rear of Sextons Lodge in advance of the construction of an extension. The site is within the zone of potential surrounding a church (CO071-05002) and associated graveyard (CO071-05001). Three test trenches were excavated. The stratigraphy consisted of between 0.4m and 0.45m of a dark loamy garden soil overlying a light brown, sandy boulder clay. No archaeological features or finds were noted.*



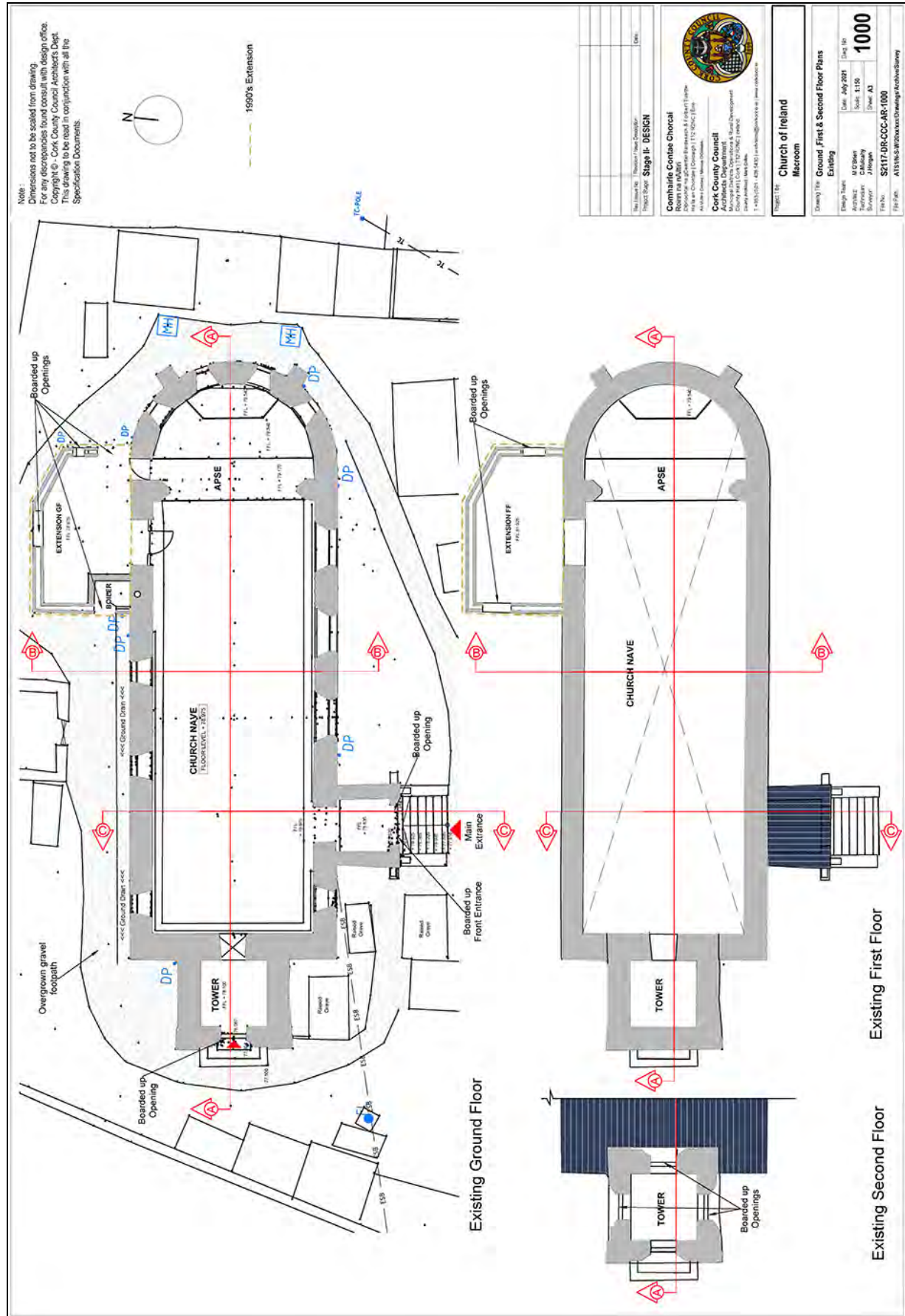
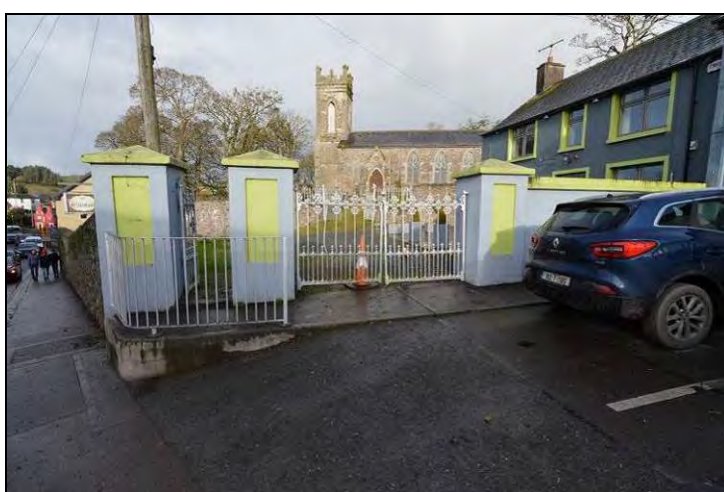


Figure 11: Existing plan survey of St. Coleman's Church, Castle Street, Macroon, Co. Cork

## 5. Site Inspection & Works Appraisal

This section is a combined site inspection and appraisal of the proposed works, with particular attention being paid to ground disturbance activities. To supplement the inspection, it is recommended that it be read in conjunction with the various other architectural/built heritage and engineering inspection, assessment reports submitted with the Part VIII application.

The inspection is presented primarily as a photographic essay, with detailed descriptions attached to the photographs; and interspersed with other photographic images that are relevant to the appraisal. A drawn survey of the church can be found in **Figure 11**.



**Photograph 1:** Outer access to St. Coleman's from Castle Street.

This gateway gives access to an outer ward of the church complex, beyond the graveyard wall, which was associated with the old glebe house that stood on the site of the Church Lane restaurant building, as recorded by James Pain in 1835.



**Photograph 2:** Extract of a 1950s' aerial photograph of Macroom in the National Library of Ireland's Morgan Aerial Photograph Collection, reference NPA MOR229. The church and graveyard can be seen, and the outer ward associated with the old glebe house.

Note the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century sacristy/robing room that was added on the north side of the church, and is now the site of the incomplete 1990s annex. Also, note the 19<sup>th</sup> Century school house in the corner of the outer ward.





**Photograph 3:** St. Coleman's church and graveyard entrance, via gateway through the graveyard boundary wall. The space to the left (southwest) was the site of 'cabins' recorded by Pain in 1835.



**Photograph 4:** View of the sloping pathway from the gate to the south porch entrance.



**Photograph 5:** View midway along the path to the porch.

It is proposed to replace the compacted gravel surface with a selected limestone paver, to improve traction for wheelchair users.





**Photograph 6:** South elevation and porch of St. Coleman's.



**Photograph 7:** South elevation and porch of St. Coleman's, looking northeast.



**Photograph 8:** View of the cut limestone steps to the porch. It is proposed to insert a wheelchair lift within the existing steps to give universal access to the porch and building.





**Photograph 9:** View along the south elevation, showing the existing ground level against the church wall.



**Photograph 10:** Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century apse extension, and the 1990s two storey concrete block replacement of the sacristy/robing room.



**Photograph 11:** The incomplete 1990s two storey concrete block replacement of the sacristy/robing room, viewed from the east.





**Photograph 12:** Disarticulated human skull fragment in a recently exposed section face to the north of the 1990s extension, between the two headstones shown in the previous Photograph 11.

The shallow depth of this fragment of Disarticulated Human Remains highlights the potential for such material to be encountered at any level in soil horizons of the graveyard.



**Photograph 13:** The incomplete 1990s two storey concrete block replacement of the sacristy/robing room, viewed from the northwest.

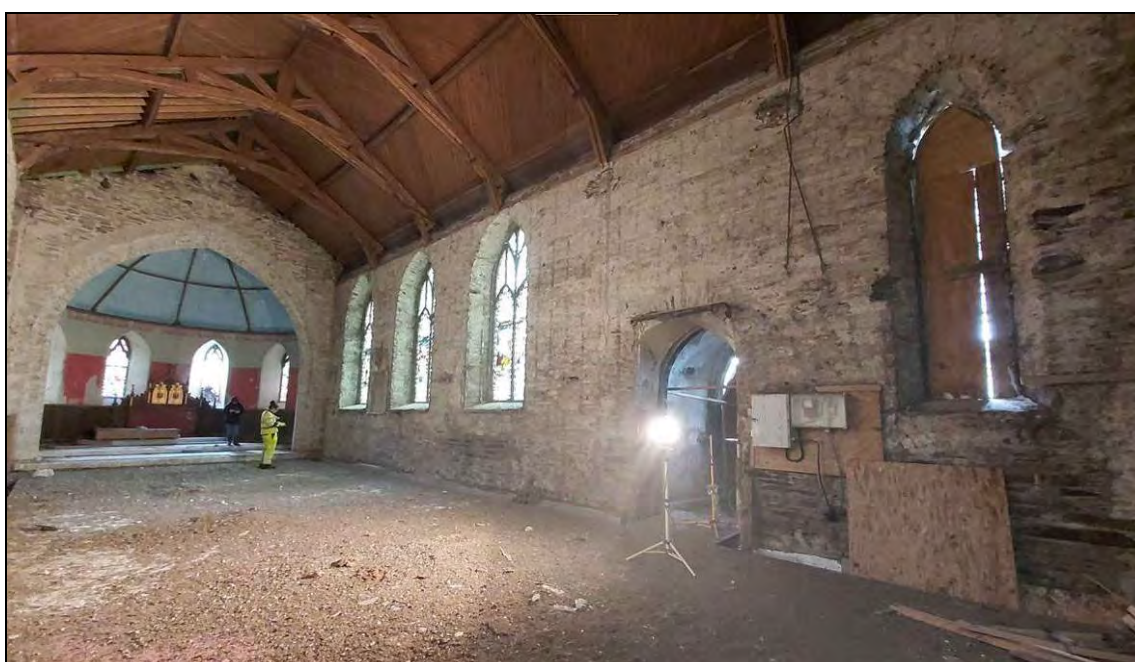


**Photograph 14:** The north elevation and the west tower.





**Photograph 15:** Existing drain alongside the north wall, and cement render applied to the lower fabric.



**Photograph 16:** View of the interior of the church body, looking southeast. Note the modern concrete floor, and the removed internal wall render – part of the significant 1990s works. The fabric, wall and floor surfaces of the Welland and Gillespie apse remains largely intact.



**Photograph 17:** View of the interior, midway along the central aisle towards the apse and altar.

Taken in 1983 during a visit by the Cork Archaeological Survey team.

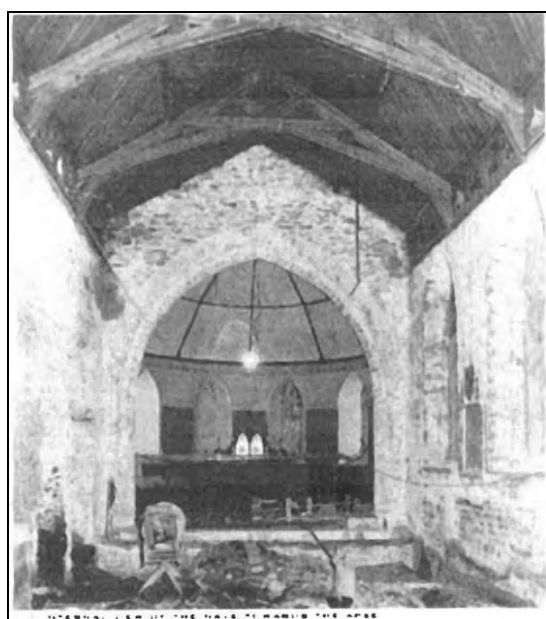
From the archive of the *Post-Medieval Survey Records County Cork 1982-1996*.



**Photograph 18:** Similar aspect view of the interior in 1983; from the archive of the *Post-Medieval Survey Records County Cork 1982-1996*.



**Photograph 19:** View towards the internal west wall, 1983; from the archive of the *Post-Medieval Survey Records County Cork 1982-1996*.



**Photographs 20-21:** Two views of the 1990s works, from condition report by Fourém Architects Engineers in 2002?

Note the significant lowering of the ground level in the order of 500-600mm, which saw the removal the 19<sup>th</sup> Century timber floor and underfloor heating vent, and its replacement with the present concrete surface.



## 6. Impact Assessment

The concept of the proposed works to St. Coleman's is that they are minimally invasive, and work towards weatherproofing the church, consolidating the fabric, upgrading the foul, water and electrical services, and improving access for all through the graveyard and into the structure. The works are designed to progress St. Coleman's towards an appropriate reuse and occupation – the best form of long term preservation and maintenance.

There are three primary ground disturbance areas of work:

- A new, shallow service trench for water and electrical services that will be excavated to a projected maximum depth of 200mm into the existing footpath through the graveyard, and brought to the steps of the porch. The service trench, and a drop manhole if levels require it, will enter the church as part of the works to install a wheelchair lift into the porch steps. The service trench will then continue diagonally to the northeast, across the 1990s concrete floor of the interior, to the unfinished extension that replaced the sacristy/robing room. The 200mm maximum depth of the service trench along the path is designed to keep it shallow, and above the suspected levels of 300-500mm at which in-situ burials may be expected. Disarticulated Human Remains from past ground disturbances can be expected at any depth throughout the soil profile of the graveyard, as evidenced by the partial skull seen close to the 1990s extension.
- The steps at the foot of the porch will be removed to accommodate a bespoke and integrated wheelchair lift to ensure universal access. The steps will be retained on-site for use elsewhere.
- The existing gravel footpath will be replaced with selected limestone pavers, set on a cementitious base over geotextile material; the intention being to provide a stable gradient for wheelchair users.

If left unmitigated, while they are designed to be shallow, the ground works have potential to encounter and impact on in-situ burials at depth, and to uncover Disarticulated Human Remains throughout the soil profile of the graveyard, and potentially within the floor levels of the church. There is also potential to encounter other subsurface wall fabric or archaeological features that may be associated with the medieval parish church that is believed to have been located on the St. Coleman's church site.

Similarly, the proposed works to the fabric of the upstanding church have potential for impact, despite the levels of previous impact by the incomplete works of the 1990s.

Mitigation, with the appropriate legal permissions, is required, through the attendance of professional archaeological and built heritage specialists to the works stage of the St. Coleman's Community Hub project.

## 7. Mitigation Recommendations<sup>1</sup>

It is recommended that the proposed works to the former Church of Ireland parish church of St. Coleman's on Castle Street, Macroom, proceed as proposed.

The successful execution of the proposed works, with the appropriate following mitigation measures, is an opportunity to put St. Coleman's back into use, ensuring its continued survival into the future.

Given that the church is a Recorded Monument in the care of the local authority, following the successful grant of Part VIII Planning, an application should be made to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, through the offices of the Minister's agents the National Monuments Service, for Consent for works to a monument in such care, under Section 14 of the National Monuments Act, as amended.

Ministerial Consent applications can take 6-8 weeks to process, and such a time provision should be made, in advance of any works occurring.

The attending archaeologist should be appointed as soon as possible, ideally before any detailed tender documentation is issued, so as to screen the documentation and detailed proposals for archaeological impact.

Cork County Council should be prepared to address all of the requirements of the Minister and the National Monuments Service. Notwithstanding that the works have been designed to minimise potential for impact on in-situ burials, the local authority should be prepared to carry out archaeological site investigations, should the Minister deem this necessary.

The works should be conducted under archaeological monitoring conditions, by an archaeologist experienced in working in church environments. The standby assistance of an osteoarchaeologist to advise on dealing with any Human Remains that are encountered, be that in situ burials or Disarticulated Human Remains, should be included in the monitoring archaeologist's attendance.

No ground disturbance works, no matter how minor, and including any Site Investigation works, should take place without the monitoring archaeologist in attendance.

A full record of the monitoring attendance should be kept, to create through written, drawn and photographic means an archive of the works.

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### <sup>1</sup> Note on Recommendations

All mitigation measures are recommendations only and the decision on implementation, amendments, etc. rests ultimately with the Planning Authority – Cork County Council, and other prescribed bodies such as the Development Applications Unit of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Cork County Council should be prepared to provide all necessary supports and funding, as required, for the excavation, secure storage, analysis and reporting on any human remains, in-situ burials or Disarticulated Human Remains, that are encountered. Cork County Council should be prepared to provide all necessary supports and funding, as required, for any artefacts uncovered during the works. Cork County Council should be prepared to abide by the requirements of the National Monuments Service and the National Museum of Ireland in these matters.

Cork County Council's Archaeologist should be kept advised of all activities associated with the redevelopment works to St. Coleman's, and their requirements adhered to.

Given that the standing structure is both a Recorded Monument and a Protected Structure, it is necessary that the changes to the church fabric be recorded, during the course of the works and on completion, to produce a record of the changes. The opportunity should also be taken to fully document the impacts of the 1990s works to the church. The attending archaeologist can assist the attending architectural and structural engineering teams in producing the record of changes to the fabric.

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