BURIAL GROUND & INTERMENT STRATEGY

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Limerick City and County Council has a central role in ensuring the proper provision of burial grounds in appropriate locations throughout the City and County. In order to ensure that there are sufficient burial spaces to serve the needs of the people of Limerick for the future, a Burial Ground and Interment Strategy is required.

The strategy must consider the best use of the available resources and the proximity of the location of burial grounds to the population of areas served within Limerick. The Burial Ground Strategy must also give priority to areas where the need is greatest. The strategy must also consider changing trends in burial practices and projected future requirements. This Burial Ground Strategy will address burial needs for the next 20 years.

The Local Authority also recognises its responsibility of care for the many heritage assets within its older graveyards. Therefore, this strategy will also consider these assets, providing a data set and a preliminary condition survey. This information will inform the future strategy and will assist in the prioritisation of funding for remedial works to these historical structures.

1.1 Legislative Background

The Department of Rural and Community Development has responsibility for policy and legislation in relation to local authority burial grounds. The operation of burial grounds is the responsibility of the local authorities.

The **Public Health (Ireland) Act** of 1878 (Part III) provides for the provision, maintenance and control of burial grounds. The local authority acting as the sanitary authority became the burial board for each sanitary district. In the interests of public health, power was given to local authorities to restrain the opening of new burial grounds and to order the discontinuation of burials in specified places.

The main rules for burial grounds are set out in the Rules and Regulations for the Regulation of Burial Grounds 1888 and amendments made to these rules in 1919, 1929 and 2013.

The **National Monuments Act** 1930-2014 deals with the protection and preservation of National Monuments, Recorded Monuments and Historic Monuments. Almost all of the older burial grounds are Recorded Monuments and some are also designated National Monuments.

The **Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act** of 1948 also deals with the disposal of bodies. It provides that bodies must only be buried in properly designated burial grounds. An exception to this is that a clergyman may be buried in or adjacent to a church. The 1948 Act also makes provision for the exhumation of bodies.

The 1994 **Local Government Act** amended the law and essentially provided that any person or group could develop a burial ground subject to obtaining full planning permission. This is a significant change which facilitates the provision of burial grounds by persons or groups other than local authorities, but particularly local community groups. The law in relation to the

exhumation of bodies was also amended by this Act.

The Burial Ground (Amendment) Regulations 2013 amended the 1888 Regulations to allow for uncoffined burials in an area of a burial ground designated exclusively for that purpose.

Limerick City & County Council Cemeteries Bye Laws 2015 were enacted 7th December, 2015. These bye laws were made by Limerick City and County Council under Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) for the regulation of cemeteries in the administrative area of Limerick City and County Council. The first eighteen bye- laws apply to all graveyards within the functional area. These Bye Laws cover items such as opening of graves, grave depth, headstones, exhumations and gravespace management.

1.2 Historical summary of the Burial and Churches in Limerick

There are many ways of commemorating the dead. The elaborate passage grave at Newgrange, dating to 3200 BC, still stands as a testament to those within, while modern practices can consist of a scattering of ashes leaving no physical monument other than memory. In prehistory, there is a range of monuments associated with the deposition of the dead, megalithic tombs, cist, pit and urn burials, mounds and barrows and examples of these are found across Limerick. Inhumation (burying the body) had gradually superseded cremation from the beginning of the first millennium AD and it is likely that the earliest Christian burials were interred in pre-existing 'pagan' sites, which would have had family or tribal connections. The first formal Christian cemeteries on the Continent date from the 8th century. In Ireland, these would have been associated with the early monastic settlements such as Mungret and Ardpatrick and others which have not survived. The Ardagh Chalice dates from this time.

With the advent of the Anglo-Normans, the parochial system was more firmly established and became the basic unit of government in the country. Parish churches were constructed usually associated with the manor or reusing early church sites, such as Clonshire or Donoghmore. If a church had parish status, it was required to provide a graveyard. The sanctified area surrounding the church would have included the graveyard but would have had a wide range of secular uses such as fairs, holding courts, swearing oaths and making contracts, penance, habitation of refugees and storage of valuables. Although few inscribed grave markers predate the late 18th, the graveyards themselves have been in use for many hundreds of years. Some graveyards would have had charnel houses or ossuaries where exhumed skeletons were stored after the body had decayed.

Following the Reformation, the monasteries were dissolved (1536) and the Reformed Church became the Established State Church. The parish graveyards, however, were interdenominational and continued to function for the entire community. The Church of Ireland had a role in providing local services such as street cleaning, poor relief, although these were more often provided through the Grand Jury system, but the parishes remained as the units of local government.

In the mid 19th century, legislation was passed to enclose all graveyards with walls as a public health measure and many of the handsome gates, piers and the traditional coffin-rester entrances date from this time. From at least the 18th to the 20th centuries, unbaptised children, suicides and unidentified persons were restricted from formal burial grounds. Often referred to as Children's Burial Grounds, Kill or Killeen, informal areas were created in patches of uncultivated ground with rows of low uninscribed gravestones or sometimes in ancient monastic enclosures or dis-used graveyards or ringforts. New

mass burial grounds were created in response to the Famine, these were usually associated with the system of Workhouses created across the city & county such as Kyletaun near Rathkeale.

The Church of Ireland was disestablished in 1869. The Commissioners of Church Temporalities was set up to enumerate all Church of Ireland property and to see to its disposal. This work included all churches and graveyards. At this time, many of the graveyards came under the care of the Board of Guardians of the Poor Law Unions or the Burial Boards of the Public Health (Ireland) Act 1878. These responsibilities eventually came to be vested in the local authorities. The churches at Dysert, Clonkeen, Mungret and Killaliathan/Killagholihane were given to the Board of Works and became National Monuments. Subsequently, other churches and abbeys have been taken into State ownership or guardianship, such as Hospital Church, Killeen, Killulta, Kilrush & Kilmallock.

1.3   New and Existing Burial Grounds in Limerick City & County

Limerick City and County Council is responsible for the maintenance of the majority of the burial grounds in Limerick. A small number of burial grounds are maintained by local parishes and community groups, with assistance provided by the Council. In total, there are 267 burial grounds in Limerick of which 69 have available spaces for purchase. The remaining burial grounds have capacity in existing family plots. All burial grounds are non-denominational. The Council is responsible for the provision of new burial grounds and extensions to existing burial grounds. The Council provides grant aiding to some local communities who wish to develop community graveyards.

1.4   Funding of Burial Grounds

The provision of burial ground facilities is one of the few areas of local authority responsibility where no capital grants are provided by central government. Limerick City & County Council has to fund the provision of new burial grounds through its own resources by way of capital funding. The resources for capital funding are limited. Therefore, it is important that these limited resources are used effectively. This Strategy will ensure that the provision of new burial grounds is provided where the need is greatest. Funding for the maintenance of burial grounds is provided in the annual revenue budget of Limerick City & County Council.

1.5   Maintenance of Burial Facilities

Limerick City & County Council has an annual programme of work which covers general maintenance of footpaths, walls, vegetation and trees. Some of this work is assisted through local development companies with the aid of community groups. There are numerous voluntary local committees who carry out much needed maintenance to burial grounds in their localities. The high standard to which these burial grounds are maintained is a credit to these local groups. The Council assists these community efforts in a tangible manner by providing some grant assistance. The Council makes an annual grant available to voluntary committees to assist in the cost of maintenance. An annual Burial Ground Awards Ceremony is held where the successful groups receive additional funding as prize money. The annual cost of these initiatives is €72,000.

1.6   Management and Control of Burial Grounds

Limerick City and County Council employs a Caretaker in majority of the 43 active Council owned burial grounds to assist in the management and record keeping of these Burial Grounds. The caretaker is responsible for the day-to-day monitoring of items covered by Limerick City & County Council's

Cemeteries Bye Laws 2015 such as opening of graves, grave depth, headstones, exhumations and gravespace management. The remaining burial grounds are managed centrally by Council staff.

2.0 DATA COLLECTION

In order to determine the burial needs of the City and County, it was first necessary to carry out a comprehensive survey of all existing burial grounds in Limerick. It was also necessary to determine the current and future population of Limerick and its towns and villages and its distribution throughout the County. The population in each town/village would provide a basis in which to determine where there may be a greater need in a particular area and assist in the future prioritisation of new burial grounds.

2.1 Burial Ground Survey

A comprehensive survey of all burial grounds in the City and County was carried out using information from sources such as records held by the Council, maps, local knowledge and site visits.

The survey work comprised of the following:

- 2016 Census - population in towns/villages and % mortality rate
- RIP.ie – 2019 and 2020 burial data for each Municipal District
- Surveying – walk over surveys, desktop surveys and GPS
- Mapping burial grounds to Electoral Districts
- Caretaker records – correlate RIP data
- Office records – purchase of graves

The survey identified that 267 burial grounds exist in Limerick and that approximately one third of these are actively used for the purchase of burial plots. The geographic location of these 267 burial grounds is shown in Appendix A.

Table 1 shows the distribution of the 267 burial grounds across the Municipal Districts.

Table 1. Distribution of Burial Grounds across the Municipal Districts

Municipal District	No. of Burial Grounds
Metro	40
Adare-Rathkeale	78
Newcastle West	47
Cappamore-Kilmallock	102
Total	**267**

There are sixty-nine active burial grounds located throughout the City and County and for the purposes of this strategy, they have been categorised into their respective Municipal Districts. This will allow each district to be assessed for future burial capacity. It will also have regard to adjacent burial grounds in the adjoining Municipal District.

The strategy will address the number of plots available in each of the burial grounds and the number of year's capacity remaining and will recommend where new burial grounds may be required for each of the Municipal Districts.

The following table lists the burial grounds in each of the four districts, Metropolitan, Adare-Rathkeale, Cappamore-Kilmallock and Newcastle West, with the respective number of burial plots available in each of the burial grounds.

Table 2. Active Burial Grounds with available Burial Plots

Burial Ground	Ownership	Municipal District	No of Burial Plots Available
Meanus (Churchyard)	Catholic Church	Adare-Rathkeale	14
Askeaton St Mary's	Church of Ireland	Adare-Rathkeale	10
Rathkeale	Church of Ireland	Adare-Rathkeale	10
Ballingarry St Mary's	Community	Adare-Rathkeale	200
Coolcappagh	Community	Adare-Rathkeale	100
Croagh (New)	Community	Adare-Rathkeale	300
Croom	Community	Adare-Rathkeale	491
Kildimo (New)	Community	Adare-Rathkeale	10
Taylorscross	Community	Adare-Rathkeale	700
Adare, St Nicholas	Council	Adare-Rathkeale	83
Askeaton Reilig Mhuire (Ext)	Council	Adare-Rathkeale	1,449
Beagh, Ballysteen (Exten)	Council	Adare-Rathkeale	10
Crecora (New)	Council	Adare-Rathkeale	456
Kilcolman	Council	Adare-Rathkeale	5
Kilcornan (Exten.)	Council	Adare-Rathkeale	394
Rathkeale St Joseph's (New)	Council	Adare-Rathkeale	1,256
Granagh	Council	Adare-Rathkeale	80
Shanagolden (New)	Council	Adare-Rathkeale	82
Embury Heck	Methodist	Adare-Rathkeale	10
Total			**5,570**
Bruff	Catholic Church	Cappamore-Kilmallock	85
Bulgaden (Exten)	Catholic Church	Cappamore-Kilmallock	70
Grange	Catholic Church	Cappamore-Kilmallock	50
Hospital	Catholic Church	Cappamore-Kilmallock	76
Anglesborough	Community	Cappamore-Kilmallock	192
Kilbehenny (New)	Community	Cappamore-Kilmallock	60
Knockainey	Community	Cappamore-Kilmallock	600
Knocklong (New)	Community	Cappamore-Kilmallock	50

Oola St Anthony's	Community	Cappamore-Kilmallock	1,450
Patrickswell Lough Gur	Community	Cappamore-Kilmallock	175
Abington (Exten)	Council	Cappamore-Kilmallock	9
Ardpatrick (Exten)	Council	Cappamore-Kilmallock	158
Athlacca (Exten)	Council	Cappamore-Kilmallock	138
Ballingaddy	Council	Cappamore-Kilmallock	683
Ballylanders (New)	Council	Cappamore-Kilmallock	13
Bruree (New)	Council	Cappamore-Kilmallock	698
Caherconlish (New)	Council	Cappamore-Kilmallock	240
Caherelly (Exten)	Council	Cappamore-Kilmallock	41
Colmanswell (Exten)	Council	Cappamore-Kilmallock	20
Doon (Exten D)	Council	Cappamore-Kilmallock	498
Effin (Exten)	Council	Cappamore-Kilmallock	490
Galbally (Exten)	Council	Cappamore-Kilmallock	37
Glenroe	Council	Cappamore-Kilmallock	70
Kilfinane (Exten)	Council	Cappamore-Kilmallock	557
Pallasgrean St Columba's	Council	Cappamore-Kilmallock	668
Total			**6,581**
Ballybrown Kilkeedy (New)	Council	Metropolitian	240
Castleconnell St Joseph's	Council	Metropolitian	994
Castlemungret	Council	Metropolitian	3,930
Mount St Lawrence	Council	Metropolitian	340
Mount St Oliver	Council	Metropolitian	3,000
Mungret St Nessan's	Council	Metropolitian	100
Patrickswell St Mary's	Council	Metropolitian	1,204
Total			**9,708**
Glin	Catholic Church	Newcastlewest	10
Castletown Conyers (New)	Community	Newcastlewest	297
Monagay (Exten)	Community	Newcastlewest	182
Mountcollins (Exten)	Community	Newcastlewest	240
Abbeyfeale former Col	Council	Newcastlewest	60
Abbeyfeale Reilig Ide Naofa	Council	Newcastlewest	155
Abbeyfeale, St Mary's	Council	Newcastlewest	28
Ardagh (Exten)	Council	Newcastlewest	145
Athea Holy Trinity (Exten)	Council	Newcastlewest	553
Auglish (Exten)	Council	Newcastlewest	140
Dromcollogher	Council	Newcastlewest	185

Feenagh	Council	Newcastlewest	477
Killeedy St Ita's (Exten)	Council	Newcastlewest	262
Kinard Glin (New)	Council	Newcastlewest	718
Newcastle West Calvary	Council	Newcastlewest	303
Springfield Broadford (Ext)	Council	Newcastlewest	100
Templeglantine (New)	Council	Newcastlewest	153
Tournafulla	Council	Newcastlewest	60
Total			**4,068**

2.2   Population Survey

Population details are recorded by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) after each census. The 2016 Census showed that the population of Limerick grew by 1.58% since the last census in 2011. The census showed a decline in population in some rural parts of the County and a marked increase in the environs of Limerick City. The population of Limerick is 194,899 persons with 104,952 of the population residing in the Metropolitan area of Limerick.

Table 3 shows the population for each town and village and the various burial grounds that serve each of these towns/villages together with the average number of burials for each town per annum.   Please note that this table only includes the population of the towns and not surrounding hinterland.

Table 3. Population by Town & Village (Census 2016)

Town/Village	Burial Grounds servicing Town/Village	Population Town/Village	Average No. of burials per annum
Newcastle West	Calvary & St David's	6,619	42
Annacotty	Kilmurry	2,930	40
Castleconnell	St. Joseph's & Stradbally	2,107	6
Abbeyfeale	Relig Ide Naofa, St. Mary's & former CoI	2,023	16
Kilmallock	Kilmallock, Ballingaddy, Tankardstown & Ardkilmartin	1,668	22
Caherconlish	Caherconlish	1,476	12
Rathkeale	St. Marys, St. Josephs, CoI	1,441	20
Murroe	Abington	1,377	20
Croom	Anhid, St. Mary's	1,159	14
Askeaton	Askeaton	1,137	32
Adare	St Nicholas, CoI	1,129	32
Patrickswell	Patrickswell	847	10
Bruff	Bruff, Teampullin, Uregare, Grange, Meanus	803	8
Kilfinnane	Kilfinane	789	6
Hospital	Hospital, Patrickswell (Lough Gur)	653	8

Pallaskenry	Castletown, Copsewood	651	3
Cappamore	Towerhill	620	10
Bruree	Bruree	580	14
Glin	Kinard, Kilfergus	576	6
Pallasgreen	St. Columba's, Old Pallas	568	10
Ballingarry	St Mary's Ballingarry	521	4
Foynes	Knockpatrick, Robertstown	520	6
Drumcollogher	Dromcollogher	518	10
Doon	Doon	516	28
Kildimo	Kildimo Old & New	417	6
Athea	Templeathea & Holycross	369	14
Oola	St Anthony's	324	10
Ballylanders	Ballylanders	308	10
Shanagolden	Shanagolden	303	2
Clarina	Kilkeedy	294	10
Mungret	Castlemungret, St. Nessan's	277	116
Broadford	Springfield	276	8
Ardagh	Ardagh	266	20
Knocklong	Knocklong	256	4
Galbally	Galbally	251	12
Croagh	Croagh	216	6
Mountcollins	Mountcollins	201	6
Carrigkerry	Ardagh	184	1
Ballyagran	Castletownconyers & Colmanswell	179	8
Kilteely	Kilteely, Ballinlough, Ballinard	171	1
Toornafulla	Tournafulla	144	4

The population figures and death rates from CSO were used to estimate the average mortality rate in Limerick. The mortality rate was calculated at 0.73%, which equates to approximately 1,423 deaths in Limerick each year. For the purposes of the analysis, it is assumed that all persons who die in Limerick are also buried in Limerick.

Figure 1. Population by Municipal District
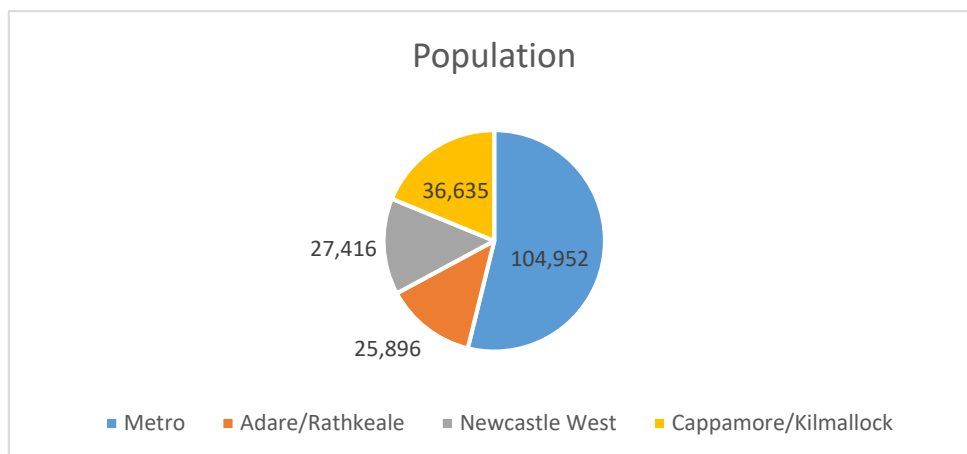
Table 4. Population with Age Profile in each Municipal District

Municipal District	Age 0-14	Age 15-64	Age 65+	Total Population
Metro	20,372	71,284	13,296	104,952
Adare-Rathkeale	5,440	16,394	4,062	25,896
Newcastle West	5,597	17,215	4,604	27,416
Cappamore-Kilmallock	8,185	22,914	5,536	36,635
Total	39,594	127,807	27,498	194,899

Table 5. Population by Municipal District with Burial Plot

Municipal District	Population	Av. No. of burial plot purchases per Year	No. of Burial Plots Available
Metro	104,952	197	9,708
Adare-Rathkeale	25,896	170	5,570
Newcastle West	27,416	116	4,068
Cappamore-Kilmallock	36,635	163	6,581
Total	194,899	646	25,927

Figure 2. Annual Average Number of Deaths in Limerick
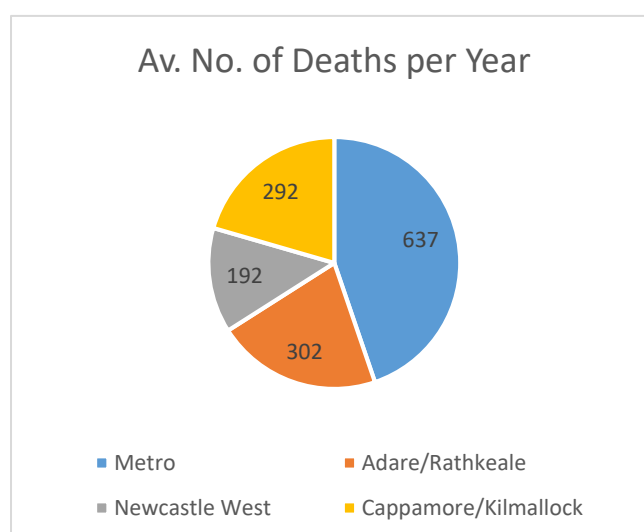
It is noted that the ratio of population to number of deaths varies in each of the Municipal Districts. The proportion of deaths to population in the Metropolitan area is less than in the other Municipal Districts. This is largely due to the younger population in the Metropolitan area.

Future Population

Future population growth in Limerick City and County was taken into consideration in the analysis, in determining future provision of burial grounds in Limerick.

The National Planning Framework has provided for a population increase of minimum 50,000 persons in Limerick City by 2040. The dispersal of this increase in population will primarily be in the Mungret, Castletroy, and City areas, as part of master planning of Mungret lands by Limerick Twenty Thirty Strategic Development DAC (Designated Activity Company) and lands adjacent to Colbert Station by the Land Development Agency.

The future population is particularly relevant in the Metropolitan area, as it becomes increasingly built up with the possibility of limited lands being available for the provision of new burial grounds to serve the Metropolitan area of Limerick, due to pressures on land to provide affordable and social housing. Therefore, it is important to determine the remaining capacity for the Metropolitan area as a whole and identify where future burial grounds may be required.

The future population of each town and village has been determined by the Forward Planning Unit of the Council as part of the draft Limerick City and County Development Plan 2022-2028.

3.0   ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS

The information collected from the burial ground survey and the population trends was used to determine the burial ground capacity and burial ground needs for Limerick.

The survey collated information on the approximate number of burial plots available for purchase by the general public in each active burial ground. Where no burial spaces are available to purchase but capacity exists in existing family plots, these burial grounds are designated as being 'full'.

3.1   City and County-wide

The survey of burial grounds in Limerick has revealed that there are a total of 25,927 available burial plots in the City and County. This does not include family or privately owned plots, which are not readily available to the public at large. The survey revealed that there are sufficient burial spaces available to meet the burial needs of the City and County for the next 20 years. It is assumed that each burial plot is used for only one burial and the available capacity of burial grounds would be much greater if more than one interment takes place in each burial plot, up to 3 interments are permitted. The survey also revealed that there are areas, where the available burial spaces are limited and diminishing.

Figure 3. Number of Year's Capacity in Limerick Burial Grounds by Municipal Area
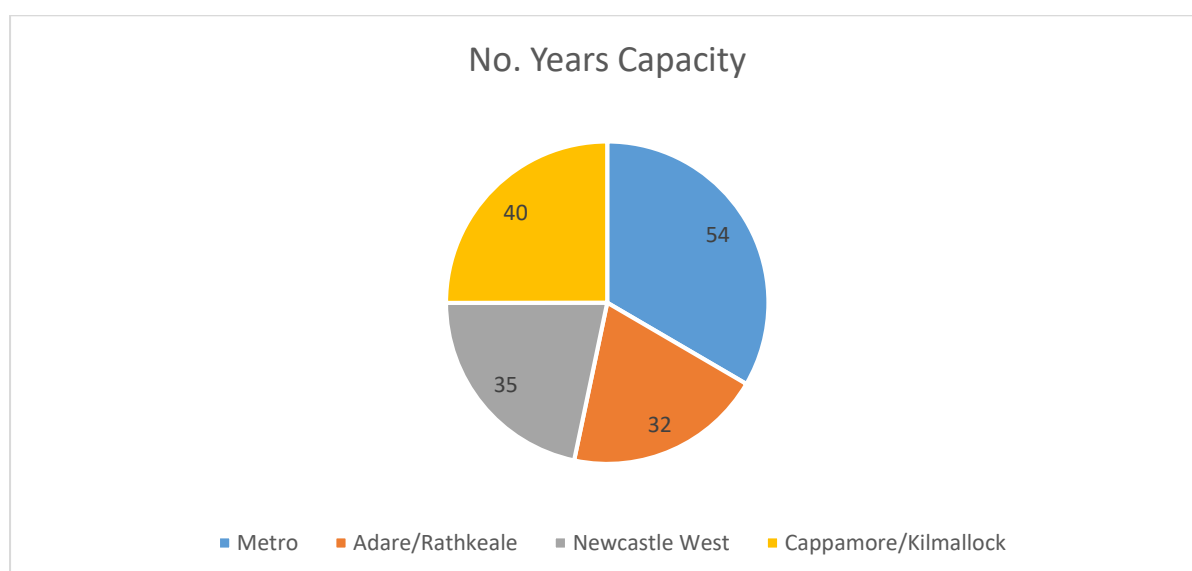
3.2   Municipal Districts

The data can be broken down further into the four Municipal Districts as shown in Table 6 below. It can be seen that the greatest number of deaths, as expected, are in the Metropolitan area. The percentage number of deaths per head of population in each Municipal District are relatively similar with the exception of the Adare-Rathkeale District. The number of deaths per head of population is the highest in the Adare-Rathkeale district at 1.2% as against 0.6%, 0.7% and 0.8% for the Metropolitan, Newcastle West and Cappamore-Kilmallock Districts respectively.

Table 6. Summary of Burial Ground Capacity in Limerick (2020)

Municipal District	Population	Av. No. of Deaths per Year	No. of Burial Plots Available
Metro	104,952	637	9,708
Adare-Rathkeale	25,896	302	5,570
Newcastle West	27,416	192	4,068
Cappamore-Kilmallock	36,635	292	6,581
Total	194,899	1,423	25,927

Each of the Municipal Districts are addressed separately in the following sections. The population data is presented per Electoral Division for each of the Municipal Districts as per the 2016 Census data. The burial grounds contained within each of these Electoral Areas are also presented. The capacity remaining has been calculated for each of the burial grounds with graves spaces available for purchase and presented per Electoral Division. The number of years capacity remaining has been calculated by dividing the number of available spaces by the number of purchases per year.

It is important to note that some of the burial grounds are closed but are included in the Tables for each of the Electoral Divisions. Where burial grounds are closed, the capacity remaining has been presented accordingly. While the closed burial grounds may have some capacity available in existing family plots, this has not been taken into consideration in the Strategy in determining capacity remaining for each of the burial grounds.

Some burial grounds will span more than one Electoral Division, depending on the size and proximity of the respective burial ground. Where burial grounds are closed, an alternative burial ground is proposed. This will vary from one Electoral Division to another and is dependent on the population being served and the proximity of the nearest burial ground with available capacity.

In determining future new burial grounds in Limerick, a number of factors needs to be taken into consideration, the main factor is the population that the burial ground will serve. The new burial ground may serve a number of towns and villages. The geographic area that the burial ground will serve also has to be taken into consideration.

3.2.1　　　　　Cremations

In 2019, there were 1,418 deaths in Limerick. Two-hundred and fifteen (15%) of these people were cremated, 73% (156) of those cremated were resident in the Metropolitian District, 10% (22) in Adare-Rathkeale District, 13% (27) in Cappamore-Kilmallock District and only 5% (10) in the Newcastle West Municipal District. The data for 2020 has indicated that there is an increase in the number of cremations in the Metropolitan area from 73% to 77.2% in the first three quarters of 2020. There is only a very marginal increase in Newcastle West to 6% with marginal decreases for Adare-Rathkeale District and Cappamore-Kilmallock District to 8.4% for both districts.

It is clear that the number of cremations in the Metropolitan District is on the increase and provision must be made to facilitate cremations in a number of the burial grounds. The increase in the number of cremations in the Metropolitan Area is probably due to the proximity of the Shannon Crematorium. The provision of Columbarium Walls and Cremation plots to facilitate cremated remains will increase the capacity of a burial ground. The main burial grounds where Columbarium Walls should be considered are Mount Saint Lawrence, Kilmurry and Castlemungret burial grounds. Plans are underway to develop 3,700 niches in Columbarium Walls in the Metropolitian District.

There are sixty dedicated cremation plots provided in Mount Saint Oliver Cemetery. A number of cremation plots have been identified in existing cemeteries throughout the county, including Rathkeale, Askeaton, Galbally and Springfield. Cremation plots can be provided in all burial grounds if there is a demand. This will increase the capacity in a burial ground as the size of a cremation plot is half the size of a plot for the burial of a coffin.

3.3　　　　　Metropolitan District

The locations of the burial grounds in the Metropolitan District are as shown on a map in Appendix C. The map includes all burial grounds in the Metropolitan area including the burial grounds that are closed and burial grounds in close proximity in the adjoining Municipal District. The Metropolitan District has 40 burial grounds, including closed burial grounds.

The burial ground data for the Metropolitan District is presented in Table 7 below. The area of greatest population is the Old City area with a population of 58,259 persons. This area is served by Mount Saint Lawrence and Mount Saint Oliver. Both of these burial grounds have a combined remaining capacity of 46 years. While there is 46 years capacity remaining in these combined cemeteries, it is prudent to assess these cemeteries, to see how the capacity of these cemeteries may be prolonged considering the population that they serve. From earlier data, it is evident that cremations are on the increase in the Metropolitan area, due to the proximity of the Shannon Crematorium. The provision of Columbarium Walls or Cremation Plots must be considered for these cemeteries. A project is already underway for Mount Saint Lawrence Cemetery Extension with a Columbarium Garden Project at the preliminary design stage. Mount Saint Lawrence has the lesser capacity of the two cemeteries at 6 years remaining capacity.

A Columbarium Garden Project should also be considered for Mount Saint Oliver burial ground as a longer term proposal. Cremation plots are proposed for each of these cemeteries.

The areas with the next highest population is the Ballycummin and Ballysimon Electoral Divisions with population figures of 18,388 and 13,590 respectively. Castlemungret burial ground, in the Ballycummin division has a remaining capacity of 44 years.

There is no capacity in the Ballysimon Electoral Division. The four burial grounds in this Electoral Division have little or no remaining capacity. These areas are currently served by other Metropolitan burial grounds for new grave purchases with capacity remaining in existing family plots. Kilmurray burial ground is the main burial ground in this Electoral District, serving the area of Castletroy. The advanced sale of graves, historically, has resulted in this burial ground reaching capacity sooner than it should be. As a result, the Council's policy is now at time of need only for grave purchases in the majority of burial grounds. A possible solution for extending the capacity in Kilmurray burial ground is the provision of Columbarium Walls and cremation plots in a few very select areas which would accommodate the burial of cremated remains.

The Electoral Divisions of Castleconnell, Clarina and Patrickswell have ample capacity. The smaller remaining Electoral Divisions can be served by other adjacent burial grounds in the Metropolitan District.

Table 7. Metropolitan District: Summary of Burial Ground Capacity by Electoral Area

Electoral Division	Local Burial Ground including 'closed' Burial Grounds	Population	Average No. of Grave Purchases per annum	Capacity remaining (spaces)	Capacity remaining (years)	Alternative Burial Ground
Ballyvarra	Annagh, Mongfune, Killeenagarrif	4,288	0	0	0	All other Metro Burial Grounds
Ballysimon	Ballysimon, Kilmurry, Drombanna, Carrigparson	13,590	0	0	0	All other Metro Burial Grounds
Castleconnell	Castleconnell	3,332	6	994	166	
Ballycummin	Castlemungret, Mungret	18,388	81	3820	47	
Roxborough	Donoughmore, Raheen	1,495	0	0	0	All other Metro Burial Grounds
Carrig	Kilkeedy (Ballybrown)	593	4	240	60	
Clarina	Kilkeedy (Ballybrown)	1,770				
Former City Area	Mount St Oliver/Mount Saint Lawrence	58,259	72	3,340	46	
Limerick South Rural	Mount St Oliver/Mount Saint Lawrence	1,786				
Patrickswell	Patrickswell	1,451	6	976	163	

3.3.1   Future Provision of Burial Grounds in the Metropolitan District

It can be seen that the Electoral Divisions of greatest population have capacity up to the next 46 years with the exception of the Ballysimon Electoral Division. While capacity can be increased in Kilmurray burial ground in the short term, a new burial ground will be required in the longer term. The future population growth for Castletroy, as referenced earlier, will also place an increasing demand for a new burial ground in the Electoral District.

There is 44 years capacity in Castlemungret burial ground, which will cater for burials for the foreseeable future. With future population growth predicted for the Mungret area, it is prudent to increase the capacity of Castlemungret burial ground with the provision of Columbarium Walls. With the ever increasing demand on land for housing, the strategy must look beyond 20 years for the provision of burial grounds and consider rezoning land adjacent to Castlemungret burial ground. This would allow a future extension at a much later date into the future.

It is also important to note that the population of the Muslim community is increasing in the Metropolitan district. As a result, the Muslim community should be assisted in providing a Muslim community burial ground.

The following summarises the burial requirements for the Metropolitan District:

Metropolitan	Timeframe	
	Acquisition	Develop BG
Ballysimon DED - Acquire site & develop burial ground	2022-2023	2024-2026
Castlemungret BG - Install columbarium wall		2021-2022
Develop cremation plots		2021
Mount Saint Lawrence - Develop columbarium garden		2022-2026
Develop cremation plots		2021
Kilmurray BG - Install columbarium wall		2021
Mount Saint Oliver - Develop cremation plots		2021
Develop cremation garden		2023-2025
Muslim Burial Ground - Support provision of community BG		2021/2022

3.4   Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District

The locations of the burial grounds in the Cappamore-Kilmallock District are as shown on a map in Appendix D. The map includes all burial grounds in the Cappamore-Kilmallock area including the burial grounds that are closed and burial grounds in close proximity in the adjoining Municipal Districts. The Cappamore-Kilmallock District has the highest number of burial grounds, with a total of 102 no, including closed burial grounds.

The burial ground data for the Cappamore-Kilmallock District is presented in Table 8 below. The table shows that the burial grounds in the Electoral Divisions in the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District exhibit a great degree of variation throughout the Electoral Divisions showing some areas with long term capacity and other areas with very little capacity. In the analysis below, it is important to note that all burial grounds were assessed and alternative burial grounds in close proximity, suggested for some areas where capacity is limited. Only the areas with higher populations figures are addressed in the following paragraphs.

The area of greatest population is Kilmallock with a population of 2,394 persons. A new burial ground was provided in recent years for Kilmallock which has ample capacity into the future. The next highest population is Caherconlish, which has recently received an extension to the existing burial ground, providing capacity for a further 27 years. The new extension to Caherconlish burial ground can also serve the areas of Clonkeen, Mongfune and possibly Abington. The Electoral Divisions of Ballybricken, Bruree, Doon, Kilfinnane, Oola and Grean all have capacity greater than 20 years and are not considered further in this strategy.

The Electoral Divisions of Cappamore and Abington (Murroe) with populations of 1,362 and 1,238 persons respectively require attention. There is no capacity remaining in Towerhill burial ground, serving the village of Cappamore and there is only five years capacity remaining in Abington burial ground, serving the village of Murroe. A new burial ground will be required to serve both Cappamore and Murroe. Ballylanders burial ground serves a number of Electoral Divisions and has only 1 year capacity remaining. The Council own the site adjacent to this burial ground and if it were developed, it would also serve Galbally, which has 9 years capacity remaining. The extension to Ballylanders burial ground will also serve Knocklong, which has 8 years remaining capacity.

Other areas that may need to be considered in the future are Bruff and Hospital. There is eleven years capacity remaining in Bruff burial ground. Bruff is one of the larger towns in the District and consideration should be given to identifying a site and provision made in the Local Area Plan for same. There is 6 years capacity remaining in Hospital burial ground. There may be an opportunity for the community to develop a community burial ground in Hospital. Kilteely is also another possibility for a community burial ground.

The following summarises the burial requirements for the Cappamore Kilmallock District:

	Timeframe	
Cappamore Kilmallock District	**Acquisition**	**Develop BG**
Bruff - Acquire site for new burial ground	2025-2027	2027-2029
Ballylanders - Develop extension to existing burial ground		2021
Cappamore/Murroe - Acquire site & develop new burial ground	2022-2023	2024-2026
Hospital – Support provision of community burial ground		
Kilteely – Determine remaining capacity or support community burial ground		

Table 8. Cappamore-Kilmallock: Summary of Burial Ground Capacity by Electoral Area

* Non Council owned Burial Ground

Electoral Division	Local Burial Ground including 'closed' Burial Grounds	Population	Average No. of purchases per annum	Capacity (spaces)	Capacity (years)	Alternative Burial Ground
Kilflyn	Abbey	199	0	0	0	Glenroe, Kilfinane
Abington	Abington	1,238	2	10	5	Caherconlish
Anglesborough	Anglesborough*	339	4	192	48	
Kilglass	Anglesborough*	302				
Ardpatrick	Ardpatrick	380	4	155	39	
Ballymacshaneboy	Ardpatrick	485				
Particles	Ardpatrick	240				
Athlacca	Athlacca	384	5	138	28	
Glenbrohane	Auraclaw (Glenlara)	430	0	0	0	Kilfinane
Kilmurry	Auraclaw (Glenlara)	909				
Ballybricken	Caherelly	1,814	2	41	21	
Caherelly	Caherelly	364				
Ballylanders	Ballylanders	628	9	13	1	Develop Ballylanders Ext.
Cullane	Ballylanders	374				
Griston	Ballylanders	304				
Bruff	Bruff*	1,415	8	85	11	Grange*, Lough Gur*
Bruree	Bruree	1,199	4	698	175	
Rockhill	Bruree	321				
Bulgaden	Bulgaden*	340	2	70	35	
Caherconlish East	Caherconlish	507	9	240	27	
Cahercorney	Caherconlish	733				
Caherconlish West	Caherconlish	2,236				
Clonkeen	Clonkeen	973	0	0	0	Castleconnell, Caherconlish
Colmanswell	Colmanswell	548	2	20	10	Effin, Bruree
Darragh	Darragh, Glenroe	308	5	70	14	Adjoining lands owned by LCCC
Doon South	Doon	1,268	22	498	23	
Doon West	Doon	237				
Dromin	Dromin	555	4	0	0	Bruree, Bruff

Tobernea	Effin	**643**	6	490	82	
Emlygrennan	Emlygrennan	**759**	0	0	0	Kilfinane
Duntryleague	Galbally	**333**	4	37	9	Ballylanders pos. ext.
Galbally	Galbally	**563**				
Grange	Grange*	**538**	2	50	25	
Hospital	Hospital*	**1,312**	12	76	6	Lough Gur
Knocknascrow	Kilbehenny*	**194**	3	60	20	
Kilbeheny	Kilbeheny*	**237**				
Kilfinnane	Kilfinnane	**1,121**	11	557	51	
Kilmallock	Kilmallock, Ballingaddy Deebert *	**2,394**	7	683	98	
Kilteely	Kilteely	**574**	0	0	0	Pallasgreen
Knockainy	Knockainy*, Lough Gur* (Patrickswell)	**722**	10	215	22	
Knocklong	Knocklong*	**874**	6	50	8	Ballylanders, Hospital
Crean	Meanus*	**412**	2	16	8	Grange, Lough Gur
Glenstal	Mongfune	**1,140**	0	0	0	Castleconnell Caherconlish
Oola	Oola	**1,082**	11	1450	132	
Templebredon	Oola	**547**				
Grean	Pallasgreen	**1,506**	9	668	74	
Riversdale	Pallasgreen	**252**				
Bilboa	Towerhill	**409**	0	0	0	Doon
Cappamore	Towerhill	**1,362**				
Uregare	Uregare	**631**	0	0	0	Bruff

3.5   Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District

The locations of the burial grounds in the Adare Rathkeale District are as shown on a map in Appendix E. The map includes all burial grounds in the Adare Rathkeale District including the burial grounds that are closed and burial grounds in close proximity in the adjoining Municipal Districts. The Adare Rathkeale District has 78 burial grounds, including closed burial grounds.

The burial ground data for the District is presented in Table 9 below. The table shows the various burial grounds in the Electoral Divisions and the capacity remaining in each burial ground. The data indicates that in the areas of greatest population, there is adequate capacity in the existing burial grounds with the exception of Adare and Askeaton. The burial ground in Adare has only 4 years capacity remaining. A contributory factor to the limited capacity, is the presence of rock in the north corner of the burial ground. With the existing population of 2,616 persons, the highest in the District and future population growth, a new burial ground will be required for Adare.

The burial ground in Askeaton, serving five Electoral Divisions and a total population of 3,034 persons has only one year capacity remaining. An extension of the existing burial ground is currently being progressed and will be constructed in 2021. The burial ground in Crecora has 12 years capacity remaining. An alternative burial ground to serve Crecora in the future is Patrickswell burial ground.

There is no capacity remaining in Pallaskenry burial ground. The alternative burial ground is Kilcornan burial ground. Given the population of Pallaskenry of 1,075 persons and the population of Kilcornan of 772 persons with a capacity of 19 years in Kilcornan burial ground, consideration should be given to supporting a new burial ground for Pallaskenry in the future.

The community in Kildimo developed a community burial ground in recent years but there is only 2 years remaining capacity. The graves have been sold in advance, which should satisfy the need in the Kildimo area. A possible alternative burial ground is Kilcornan burial ground. A community burial ground may also be considered for Loghill.

For other smaller areas of population in the District, where there is no capacity, an alternative local burial ground has been suggested.

The following summarises the burial needs for the Adare Rathkeale District:

Adare Rathkeale District	Timeframe	
	Acquisition	Develop BG
Askeaton - Develop extension to existing burial ground		2021
Adare - Acquire site and develop new burial ground	2022-2023	2024-2026
Pallaskenry – Support provision of community burial ground		
Loghill – Support provision of community burial ground		

Table 9. Adare-Rathkeale: Summary of Burial Ground Capacity by Electoral Area

* Non Council owned Burial Ground

Electoral Division	Local Burial Ground including 'closed' Burial Grounds	Population	Average No. of purchases per annum	Capacity remaining (spaces)	Capacity remaining (years)	Alternative Burial Ground
Askeaton East	Askeaton - Relig Mhuire & St. Marys; Embury Heck*	622	32	1,469**	46	** includes new burial ground to be constructed in 2021.
Askeaton West		1,186				
Aughinish		238				
Craggs		258				
Nantinan		730				
Kilfinny	Ballinakill	279	0	0	0	Croom, Ballingarry
Ballingarry	Ballingarry*	936	10	200	20	
Dunmoylan East	Kilcolman Ext	441	1	5	5	Shanagolden, Ardagh, Coolcappagh
Iveruss	Beagh	303	1	10	10	Kilcornan
Castletown	Castletown	480				
Crecora	Crecora	426	22	456	21	Patrickswell
Kilpeacon	Crecora	527				
Croagh	Croagh*	773	6	300	50	Rathkeale
Dromard	Croagh*	882				
Ballynabanoge	Croom*	327	9	491	55	
Croom	Croom*	1,692				
Dunnaman	Croom*	690				
Rathmore	Meanus*	298	2	14	7	Lough Gur (Patrickswell), Grange
Garrane	Fedamore, Taylor's Cross*	294	6	700	117	
Fedamore	Fedamore, Taylor's Cross*	1,257				
Kilcornan	Kilcornan	772	21	394	19	
Ballynacarriga	Kildimo Community*	861	6	10	2	*Community BG adjacent
Kildimo	Kildimo Community*	669				
Ballygrennan	Kilmacow	298	0	0	0	Croom Ballingarry
Kilscannell	Kilscannell	513	0	0	0	Ardagh, Rathkeale

Lismakeery	Lismakeera, Kilbradran	433	0	0	0	Askeaton, Rathkeale
Fleanmore	Loughill, Knockpatrick, Robertstown	217	0	0	0	Shanagolden, Kinard
Mohernagh	Loughill, Knockpatrick	136				
Loghill	Loughill, Knockpatrick	673				
Dunmoylan West	Loughill, Knockpatrick	66				
Abbeyville	Mainister*	353	0	0	0	Croom
Coolrus	Granagh	415	3	100	33	
Pallaskenry	Pallaskenry, Copsewood	1,075	0	0	0	Kilcornan
Ballyallinan	Rathkeale	428	20	1,366	68	
Rathkeale Rural	Rathkeale	316				
Rathkeale Urban	Rathkeale	1,371				
Riddlestown	Rathkeale, Coolcappagh*	586				
Shanagolden	Shanagolden	927	2	82	41	
Shanid	Shanagolden	532				
Adare North	St Nicholas Old*, St Nicholas New, COI*	585	20	83	4	
Adare South	St Nicholas Old*, St Nicholas New, COI*	2,031				

3.6   Newcastle West Municipal District

The locations of the burial grounds in the Newcastle West District are as shown on a map in Appendix F. The map includes all burial grounds in the Newcastle West District including the burial grounds that are closed and burial grounds in close proximity in the adjoining Municipal Districts. The Newcastle West District has 47 burial grounds, including closed burial grounds.

The data for the burial grounds in the respective Electoral Divisions in the Newcastle West Municipal District is as shown on Table 10 below. The town of Newcastle West has the greatest population of 5,104 persons. The burial ground in Newcastle West caters for four Electoral Divisions, serving a total population of 7,999 with 15 years remaining capacity. An extension to the existing burial ground will be required in the future. Given that Newcastle West is predicted to grow by 30%, the site adjacent to the existing burial ground should be secured and purchased in the near future.

The second largest town in the District is Abbeyfeale with a combined population of 3,046, serving two Electoral Divisions, the remaining surveyed capacity in the existing burial ground is 16 years. As Abbeyfeale is the second largest town and the town also predicted to grow, a new burial ground will be required for Abbeyfeale in the future. The ground conditions in Abbeyfeale will restrict the availability of suitable lands and therefore land should be secured in the near future and developed at the appropriate time.

The burial ground in Dromcollogher has a remaining capacity of thirty one years. While there is no requirement for a burial ground in Dromcollogher to be developed within the lifetime of this strategy, a site has been identified for a new burial ground adjacent to the Community Park and is in the ownership of the Council.

The burial ground in Springfield serving a population of 1,432 persons has 13 years capacity. A new burial ground is not being considered here, as there are alternatives within 5km of the burial ground. The areas of Ardagh, Athea, Castlemahon, Mountcollins, Glin have in excess of 20 years capacity and are not considered further in the strategy. All remaining burial grounds have sufficient capacity or can be catered for in locally adjacent burial grounds.

The following summarises the burial needs for the Newcastle West District:

Newcastle West District	Timeframe	
	Acquisition	**Develop BG**
Abbeyfeale - Acquire site & develop new burial ground	2021	2031-2033
Newcastle West - Acquire site & develop new burial ground	2021	2031-2033

Table 10 – Newcastle West Summary of burial ground capacity by Electoral Area

* Non Council owned Burial Ground

Electoral Division	Local Burial Ground including 'closed' Burial Grounds	Population	Average No. of grave purchases per annum	Capacity remaining (spaces)	Capacity remaining (years)	Alternative Burial Ground
Ardagh	Ardagh	981	4	145	36	
Glensharrold	Ardagh	416				
Rooskagh	Ardagh	281				
Glenagower	Athea	494	17	553	33	
Rathronan	Athea	864				
Glengort	Tournafulla	672	3	60	20	
Danganbeg	Auglish	411	2	140	70	
Ballintober	Calvary, Churchtown	361	20	303	15	adjacent site to be procured
Garryduff	Calvary, Churchtown	270				
Newcastle Rural	Calvary, Churchtown	2,264				
Newcastle Urban	Calvary, Churchtown	5,104				
Ballyagran	Castletown Conyers*	494	3	150	50	
Castletown Conyers	Castletown Conyers*	364				
Cloncagh	Cloncagh	296	0	0	0	Ballingarry or develop new community BG
Dromcolliher	Dromcollogher	945	6	185	31	
Feenagh	Feenagh	333	6	477	80	
Knockaderry	Grange	513	0	0	0	Calvary
Cleanglass	Kileedy	280	9	266	30	
Caher	Kilfergus	353	0	0	0	Kinard
Kagilfergus	Kilfergus	416				
Ballynoe	Kilmeedy	469	0	0	0	Feenagh
Ballynoe West	Kilmeedy	335				
Kilmeedy	Kilmeedy	354				
Kilmoylan	Kilmoylan	403	0	0	0	Shanagolden
Glin	Kinard, Glin Catholic Church*	1162	2	728	364	

Mahoonagh	Castlemahon, Monagay Community*	522	11	327	30	
Monagay	Monagay Community, Castlemahon*	1221				
Dromtrasna	Mountcollins*	900	9	240	27	
Mountcollins	Mountcollins*	486				
Abbeyfeale	Relig Ide Naofa	2542	10	155	16	
Port	Relig Ide Naofa	504				
Boola	Springfield, Killoughlehane	145	8	100	13	Auglish, Feenagh
Broadford	Springfield, Killoughlehane	960				
Mountplummer	Springfield, Killoughlehane	327				
Templeglentan	Templeglantine	974	6	153	26	

4.0 PROVISION OF BURIAL GROUND FACILITIES TO MEET NEED

There are a number of ways in which new burial grounds may be provided and existing ones extended. These are outlined below.

4.1 Provision of New and Extensions to Existing Burial Grounds by the Council

Limerick City and County Council is responsible for the provision of land, delineation of plots and the construction and repair of boundary walls, along with providing access, parking and any other necessary infrastructure in a burial ground. All Council Graveyards are non-denominational.

The Council will seek to provide land from its current land bank for the provision and extension of burial grounds. The Council will consider the purchase of suitable private lands, where necessary, subject to the finances being available. The Council will consider land for development of burial grounds, only if the said site is accessible, meets traffic management, public safety requirements, environmental criteria and adheres to good planning.

The Council will provide funding for the development of new burial grounds and the extension of existing ones, based on a number of factors including population served, cost of development and remaining capacity of nearby burial facilities. Proposed extensions to ancient burial grounds will be assessed archaeologically. Extensions within Ecclesiastical Enclosures (Early Christian sites) or in areas of archaeological deposits will not be advanced.

The Council will assist in the establishment of Burial Ground Committees within local communities when required. The Council will provide and organise training for Burial Ground Committees and the community, regarding the care and conservation of burial grounds and on the management and operation of burial grounds.

4.2   Provision of New and Extensions to Existing Burial Grounds by Local Groups

It is Limerick City and County Council's policy to support Local Community Groups to develop burial grounds, subject to a need being determined, i.e. no proximity to other burial grounds with capacity. Local groups can often purchase land more readily and develop burial grounds at lower cost than the Council. Local groups can also use voluntary labour to develop and maintain burial facilities. The provision of burial facilities by local groups will give them ownership of and a sense of pride in the facilities provided.

A maximum grant of €25,000 is available to the community. The award of a grant is contingent on certain criteria being met and, in particular, the following:-

- Commitment by the local community to acquire land and develop burial facilities;
- Planning permission obtained for the proposed facility;
- Construction works imminent or underway;
- Local funding being raised towards the cost of the facility;
- Technical approval to the proposal granted by the Council;

The Council will consider the provision of one large burial ground for use by a number of parishes. The Council will provide technical assistance and guidance to the local community groups proposing to develop new burial facilities.

In any one year, where a number of local groups are competing for limited capital grant funding, priority will be given to those who are at an advanced stage with their proposals and where the need for the facility can be readily demonstrated. The local group may sell a limited number of burial plots to the local community and recover some of the development costs.

A local group or a private developer can provide burial facilities in an area without grant assistance, if they so desire, as long as the proposal is technically approved by the Council (planning permission). Land upon which it is proposed to provide burial facilities must be suitable for that purpose. The Council will also assist local groups who wish to develop new burial facilities by providing technical assistance and guidance during the design, planning and construction stages.

The community burial grounds will remain in the ownership of the community in perpetuity. Long term maintenance plans and future funding proposals will need to be provided.

4.3   Historic Burial Grounds

Many older burial grounds, which have little or no designated burial spaces available, contain grassed areas that have no obvious indication of burial in the form of headstones or markers. As stated previously, most of these graveyards have been in use since at least the 13th century (many are much older) and it is likely that burials have taken place throughout the graveyard. These graveyards are protected under the National Monuments Acts and are registered as Recorded Monuments, some are considered nationally important. Re-using any of these areas has the potential to damage archaeological material and to detract from the amenity as modern memorials can be incongruous in an older setting.

The clearing of existing burial areas with existing headstones or markers in order to carry out new burials will not be permitted. Any remains found during the excavation of existing family graves must be treated with respect and re-interred within the grave space.

5.0 HISTORIC CHURCH BUILDINGS

The historic structures within our older graveyards are a central part of our heritage and we have a duty of care to pass them on to future generations.

5.1 Ownership Background:

Most of the pre-20th century graveyards within the Local Authority area are on the site of the original parish church. Historically, if a church had parish status, it was required to provide a graveyard. In the 16th century, after the Reformation, these were vested in the Church of Ireland as the Established Church. Following the Irish Church Act 1869, which disestablished the Church of Ireland, the Church Temporalities Commission was set up to catalogue all of the church's property. The Commissioners reported in 1880, Appendices 6-10 dealt with graveyards. The intention of the Church Temporalities Commission was that every functioning graveyard be placed under 'proper care', this meant generally, either under the care of the Burial Board in each Sanitary District/Guardians of the Poor Law Unions or, remaining in the care of the Representative Church Body of the Church of Ireland (RCB). Nationally, about 1,400 graveyards were vested in the RCB and 2,178 in different Boards of Guardians of Poor Law Unions or the Burial Boards constituted by the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878. The Poor Law Unions and the Burial Boards were subsequently subsumed into the Local Authorities in the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898.

In the county & city of Limerick, this meant 49 graveyards were vested in the RCB and 101 in the Burial Boards in 1880. In addition, there were 7 graveyards which were situated in private demesnes but were not vested in the owners of those demesnes, many of these have subsequently come into the management of the Local Authority. Since 1880, the RCB have transferred 23 of the original 49 RCB graveyards to the Local Authority. In some of these instances, the church ruin has remained vested in the RCB, in these cases the structure has been included in the survey numbers as its integrity is a matter of public health and safety.

5.2 Church Architecture:

The church buildings that we have inherited have had a chequered history. The earliest surviving date from the 11th century but many were restyled and added to over the centuries. The first churches in Limerick were associated with the early monastic settlements such as Mungret, Ardpatrick and Kilmallock. These dated from the 6th and 7th centuries. The earliest churches were constructed from timber and therefore do not survive above ground. Stone churches were built from the 11th and 12th centuries onwards and gradually replaced the original timber buildings.

Killulta Church, near Kildimo, is accredited as the oldest surviving stone church building in Co. Limerick (possibly 11th century) but the eastern end of Clonkeen maybe as old or older. Other pre-Norman stone churches include Kilrush, Donoghmore and Cloncagh. In their original form, these churches are single-celled, have the door in the west wall, have a steep pitch to the roof, usually have one window in the south wall near the east end and a single light window in the east wall. The very fine Romanesque doorway at Clonkeen Church was added in the 12th century. The other fine example of Romanesque architecture (round-headed window & doors and elaborate mouldings) is the door of St. Mary's Cathedral.

With the advent of the Anglo-Normans, the parochial system was more firmly established and became the basic unit of government in the country. Where necessary parish churches were constructed usually associated with the manor or reusing early church sites, such as Clonshire or Donoghmore. These were

built in the Gothic style, with pointed arches and ogee-headed windows. These churches were often double-celled, that is containing a distinct chancel and a nave, with a larger window in the east gable, the door was in the south near the west end and there was often an opposing door in the north wall.

The 12th and 13th centuries also witnessed the introduction of the continental orders of monks, the Cistercians (particularly associated with the Gothic) at Monaster, Abington and Abbeyfeale, the Augustinian Canons at Rathkeale. These were followed by the mendicant orders, the Dominicans at Kilmallock, the Augustinians at Adare, the Franciscans at Askeaton and Adare. In the later medieval period the existing parish churches were usually refurbished or extended, some had priest's quarters added, examples include Croagh and Bruree which have substantial towers, but many were more modest apartments (Dromin) or most usually, just galleries at the west end of the church.

During the 17th century, many churches were damaged or destroyed as a result of warfare. In 1711, the Board of the First Fruits was set up to finance the building of Church of Ireland churches and rectories as many of the medieval churches were past repair. Several of these churches were built in Co. Limerick at the end of the 18th, and the beginning of the 19th centuries, sometimes on the site of the medieval parish church, sometimes on a new site. Kilmurry, for example, was built at a cost of £580 in 1812. The Penal Laws were introduced in 1695, Roman Catholic worship was prohibited, but by the mid-18th century mass-houses and later, chapels began to be built, such as Croom (1808) and Shanagolden (1815) before the repeal of the laws in 1829.

While most of the older graveyards within the Local Authority area were the site of the medieval parish church, not all contain ruins, some churches were deliberately reduced, others decayed through neglect. There are also some church structures, which were not listed in the 1880's, as by that time they were no longer associated with a functioning graveyard. These often are now isolated and surrounded by private lands, they will be included at the end of each section as they are also cultural assets.

5.3   Legal Status:

All of the pre 18th century churches are Recorded Monuments protected under the National Monuments Act, specifically 1994 Amendment Section 12. Any proposed works at or in the vicinity of a Recorded Monument requires two month's Notification to the National Monuments Service. Some of the Recorded Monuments are also deemed National Monuments (Section 2 National Monuments Act 1930). The definition is 'a monument the preservation of which is a matter of **national** importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto..'. National Monuments in public ownership require Ministerial Consent for any works at or in their vicinity. All of the Churches in State ownership within the Local Authority area are deemed National Monuments these are maintained on behalf of the Minister for Heritage by the Office of Public Works. Many of the churches in Local Authority ownership would also be deemed National Monuments. Most of the more complete churches, most particularly all the post 1700 churches within the Local Authority area are also included on the list of Protected Structures (Planning & Development Act 2000, Section 51).

5.4   Best Practice:

The underlying principle in the conservation of church ruins, where there is no possibility of bringing the building back into use, is simply to consolidate the existing fabric to prevent further deterioration. This generally consists of removing all vegetation, sealing the wall tops and repointing the wall faces

where necessary. In some cases, to achieve stability, limited rebuilding may be permitted. All works require permission from the National Monuments Service and must use approved methods and materials.

5.5   The Survey

The graveyard has always been a very important part of every community. The increase in community interest in heritage, in genealogy and in the promotion of local and international tourism means that the church ruins within the graveyards are now considered as vital community assets. This, as well as the Local Authority's own stated objective of protecting, preserving and promoting heritage within its functional area means that there is a duty of care both to the structures themselves and for health and safety for visitors to the historic graveyards. In addition, there is an increasing threat to these ruins posed by climate change. The extremes of weather which have become routine, have accelerated the rate of damage and collapse and mean that a programme of works is essential.

In 2008, with the support of a Civic Structures Conservation Grant from the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government, works were carried out at Annagh Church. Since then, 15 projects on eleven different churches have been carried out using own funds usually matched or supported by national funding, currently The Historic Structures Fund administered by the Department of Heritage in its various guises (Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government, Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht) and most recently, the Community Monuments Fund. It has become very evident that a survey of the churches was needed both to assess the funding requirement for works and to prioritise the works programme. The preliminary survey contained within this strategy is a first step towards that goal.

Definitions of categories within the survey
The structures in the care of the Local Authority have been very crudely catalogued into 4 categories representing their degree of preservation:
Complete defined as a roofless ruin, with 4 walls to wall top and two gables;
Semi-complete which has most of the 4 walls but is missing the gables;
Partial contains three walls, consisting of a minimum of a short wall and N & S returns and
*Fragment* which has 2 or less walls or is a building whose walls are below 1m in height.

A <u>very preliminary</u> assessment of their condition roughly grades them into stable, not urgent, fairly urgent, urgent. Some structures currently categorised as stable will need consolidation in the future but generally are displaying no obvious stress. Others described as not urgent are only relatively stable, or may have vegetation cover precluding a complete assessment or may only be fragmentary remains, these structures will need attention in the medium to long term.

Finally, the buildings have been categorised into low, medium and high priority. There are several criteria influencing this final analysis, including the following, in NO particular order of importance: completeness, accessibility to the public, urgency of repairs, health & safety, antiquity of the building, architectural features, significance or location of the building.

Vegetation is the single biggest threat to masonry ruins. Left unchecked the roots can penetrate to the core of walls, expanding and ultimately blowing the structure apart, while the upright growth can act as a sail and in high winds can destabilise walls. Removing the vegetation improperly or prematurely can and has caused problems and accelerated decay. Other well-meaning but inappropriate works in the recent past will ultimately exacerbate the preservation of the buildings.

These include the use of concrete in repairs and poor styles of pointing. In the long-term, some of these works should be reversed, but given the limited resources and the outstanding works on more fragile structures, this is a long term objective.

Many of the churches have a blanket of ivy and sometimes trees have established within the church or on the surviving wall tops. Any vegetation cover precludes accuracy in a visual inspection so the following statistics cannot be substantiated without a comprehensive structural survey including vegetation cut back. The data has been prepared simply to assess the potential heritage assets available to the Local Authority and to indicate future outlay in their care, protection and presentation.
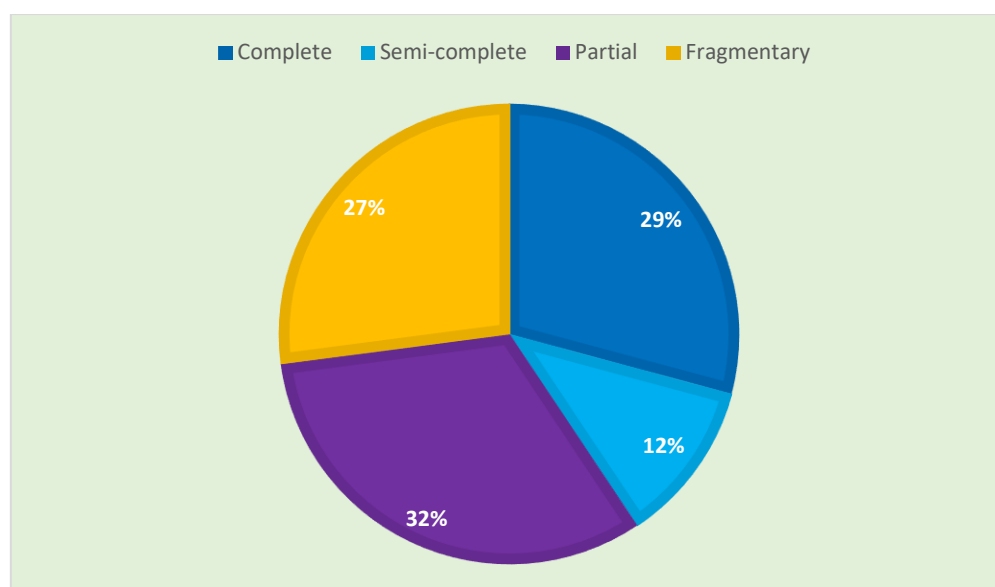

Figure 4. Total Survival within the Local Authority Graveyards

Table 11: Preliminary Assessment of Heritage Assets within LC&CC Burial Grounds

Status	Adare-Rathkeale	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Metropolitan	Newcastle West	LC&CC Total
Complete	17	06	01	04	28
Semi-Complete	01	08	01	01	11
Partial	09	12	02	08	31
Fragmentary	07	13	05	02	27
Total	34	39	09	15	97

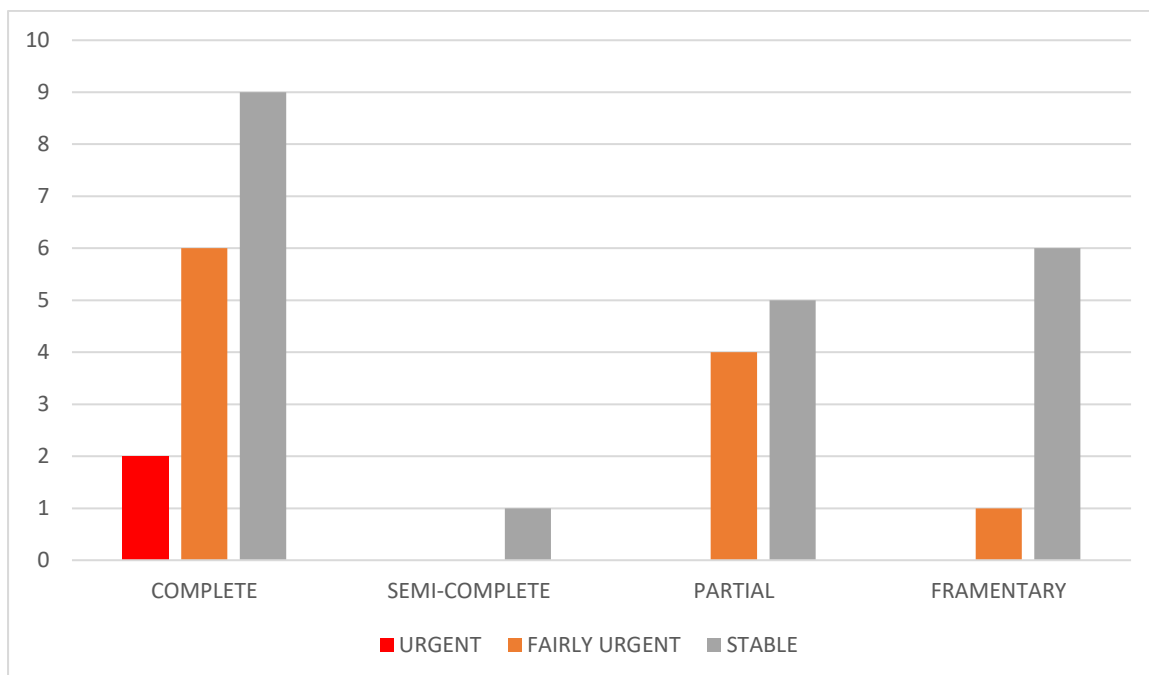**Figure 5. Heritage Assets by Municipal District**
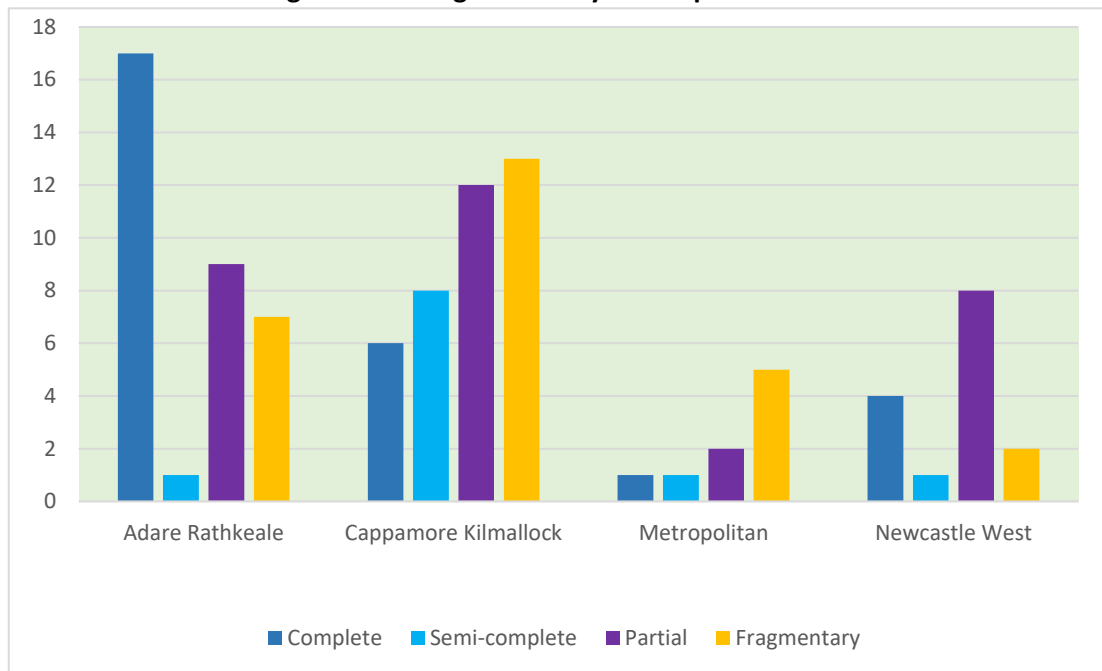
5.6   Adare-Rathkeale District: Archaeological & Architectural Assets

Within the Adare Rathkeale electoral area, there are 54 disused or ruinous ecclesiastical structures on 52 sites, which are Recorded Monuments protected under the National Monuments Act 1930-2014 (Amendments) or Protected Structures protected under the Planning Act.

Thirty-four structures are contained within graveyards, vested in the Local Authority, this includes two structures vested with the RCB (Kilscannell Church and the Steeple in Shanagolden). Under a preliminary desk-top survey these 34 structures divide into: 17 complete (this includes Clonshire) breaking down as, 2 urgent, 6 fairly urgent and 9 stable; one semi-complete which is stable, 9 partial of which, 4 are fairly urgent and 5 are stable and 7 fragmentary remains one of which is fairly urgent and the remainder are all stable. This gives a combined total of 2 urgent, 10 fairly urgent and 22 stable. The 2 urgent are: (Complete) Clonshire, Nantinan (Roofed First Fruits steeple); and the 10 fairly urgent are: (Complete) Ballynakill, Dunnaman, Glenogra, Lismakeery (W wall), Mellon & Rathnasneer; (Partial) Clonagh, Cloontemple, Kilbradran & Glebe (Crecora).

The remaining churches are divided as follows: 6 of these are in the ownership of the RCB, the two mentioned above and Askeaton (substantial medieval remains beside functioning church) Ballycahane (First Fruits roofed but disused), Enniscoush, Rathkeale (fragment of the medieval church) and Loghill. Six are owned by the State, Dysert Aenghusa at Carrigeen (NM No. 83), Glennameade near Kildimo (NM No. 341), Killeen Cowpark (NM No. 345) Monaster Abbey (NM No. 171) and Monaster Church (NM No.171) and Askeaton Friary (NM No. 185). Shannon Commercial Properties owns one church ruin. Nine structures are in private ownership. Six of these are church structures which had no evident attached graveyards in the late 19th century and were therefore not assigned other than to the landowner. Another is an Augustinian Abbey in Rathkeale, again, with no public graveyard. Finally, two church structures within a graveyard are in the care of Adare Golf Club.

Conservation projects have been carried out previously by the Local Authority at Croagh (2011) and Knockpatrick (2013).

Figure 6. Preliminary Condition Assessment, Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District

5.7   Cappamore-Kilmallock District: Archaeological & Architectural Assets

Within the Cappamore-Kilmallock electoral area there are 47 disused or ruinous ecclesiastical structures in 46 sites which are Recorded Monuments, protected under the National Monuments Act 1930-2004 (Amendments) or Protected Structures protected under the Planning Act.

Thirty-nine structures are contained within 38 graveyards, vested in the Local Authority, this includes 3 ruins which are still vested in the RCB (Athlacca (steeple only), Ballyorgan (First Fruits roofed) & Caherconlish ruin) whose graveyards have transferred to the LA. Under the preliminary desk-top survey, these divide into: 6 complete breaking down as, 2 urgent, 1 fairly urgent, 1 not urgent and 2 stable; 8 semi-complete which includes 1 urgent, 4 fairly urgent, 1 not urgent and 2 stable; 12 partial of which 4 are fairly urgent, 3 are not urgent and 5 are stable; and 13 fragmentary remains (including the Athlacca steeple and a large memorial in Ryves Castle, Ballyscaden) breaking down as, 2 fairly urgent, 3 not urgent and 8 stable.
This gives a combined total of 3 urgent, 11 fairly urgent, 8 not urgent and 17 stable.
3 urgent: (Complete) Kilfinnane, Dromkeen (First Fruits); (Partial) Ballynoe Upper, Bruree;
11 fairly urgent: (Complete) Dromin, Glenogra, (Semi Complete) Ballylanders, Cahercorney, Carrig Beg, Kilbreedy Minor, (Partial) Caherelly West, Ludden Beg, Tuogh and Ryves Castle; (Fragmentary) Ballybrood;

The remaining churches are divided as follows: 6 of these are in the ownership of the RCB, in addition to the 3 mentioned above are, Kilbeheny, Duntryleague, and Knockainey West (which is leased to the Knockainey Historical Society). Five are in ownership/guardianship of the State, The Dominican Priory, Kilmallock (NM No.212), SS Peter & Paul's Kilmallock (NM No.408), Barrysfarm Hospital (NM No. 194), New Church Lough Gur (NM 247), and Clonkeen (NM No.84) and are maintained by the OPW NMS on behalf of the Minister of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. One is possibly in private ownership as it was a church structure which had no evident attached graveyard in the late 19th century and was therefore not assigned other than to the landowner.

Several conservation projects have been carried out on various structures throughout the municipal area: Annagh, Caherconlish (2 seasons), Castletown Conyers (4 seasons). In each project, more work is required to complete the consolidation but enough was carried out to stabilise the structure in the short term. The Kilmallock Area Office also carried out works to a large Vault in Cahercorney, which is a Protected Structure and to Kilflyn Church on behalf of the RCB.

Figure 7. Preliminary Condition Assessment, Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District
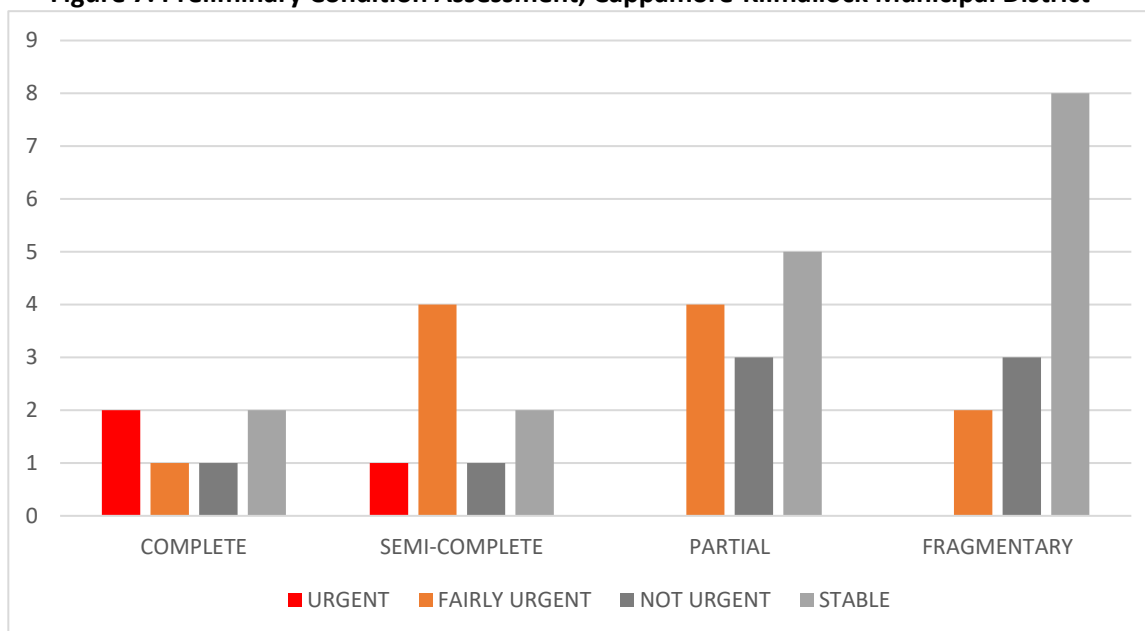
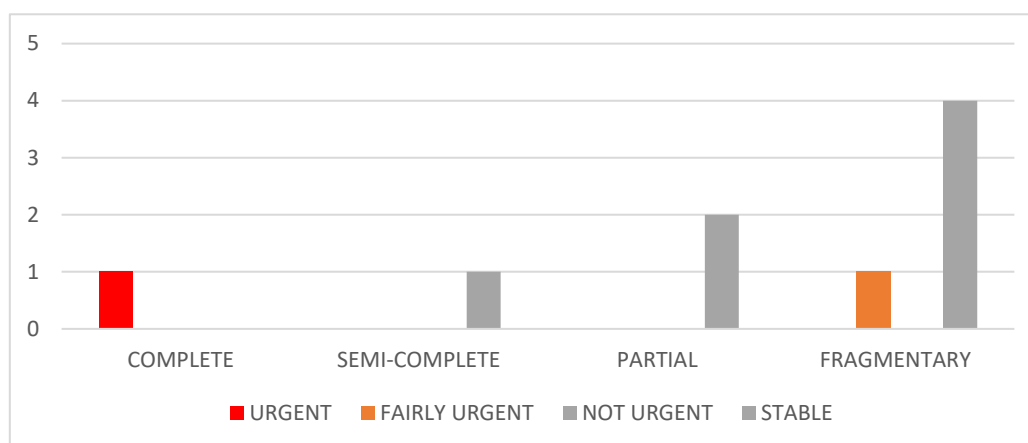### 5.8   Metropolitan District: Archaeological & Architectural Assets

Within the Metropolitan electoral area, there are 18 disused or ruinous ecclesiastical structures in 15 sites which are Recorded Monuments protected under the National Monuments Act 1930-2004 (Amendments) or Protected Structures protected under the Planning Act.

Eight structures are contained within graveyards, vested in the Local Authority and a ninth, also vested in the Local Authority, has no extant graveyard. Under a preliminary desk-top survey, these divide into: one complete which is urgent; one semi-complete which is stable, two partial which are stable and 5 fragmentary which break down as follows: one fairly urgent and 4 stable.

This gives a combined total of 1 urgent, 1 fairly urgent and 7 stable. One urgent (Complete) St. Margaret's Church in Newtown, Kilkeedy which was vested in 1880 but no longer has a graveyard around it, stands in private farmland. Two fairly urgent (Fragmentary) Lemonfield also known as Knocknagaul and Cahernarry. The remaining 6 are stable. One of these, Killeenagarriff, which is deemed partial as it is missing its east wall, was consolidated by Limerick County Council in 2010 under Ministerial Consent (Consent No. C422). Unauthorised works were carried out on the fragmentary remains at Cloonanna and the fragmentary remains were inappropriately rebuilt, Drombanny (Donoghmore) a pre Norman church also had unauthorised works, Cahernarry involving 2 structures, the possible remains of the medieval church and the steeple of the First Fruits church which will need work in the short term, Raheen and Carrigparson.

The remaining churches are divided as follows: 2 of these are in the ownership of the RCB Stradbally and Glebe, Kilkeedy. Four are owned by the State, these are the 3 churches which are part of the early Christian monastic settlement at Mungret (NM No.85) and another pre-Norman church in Kilfrush (NM No. 366) which is the subject of a Preservation Order PO No 56/1937. **Note**: the Metropolitan area also contains four other ecclesiastical structures which either remain in use or are re-used but are tourism/visitor attractions, St. Mary's Cathedral (RCB), St. John's Cathedral (RC), St. John's Church (RCB leased to Dance Limerick) and Kilmurry Church (RCB leased).

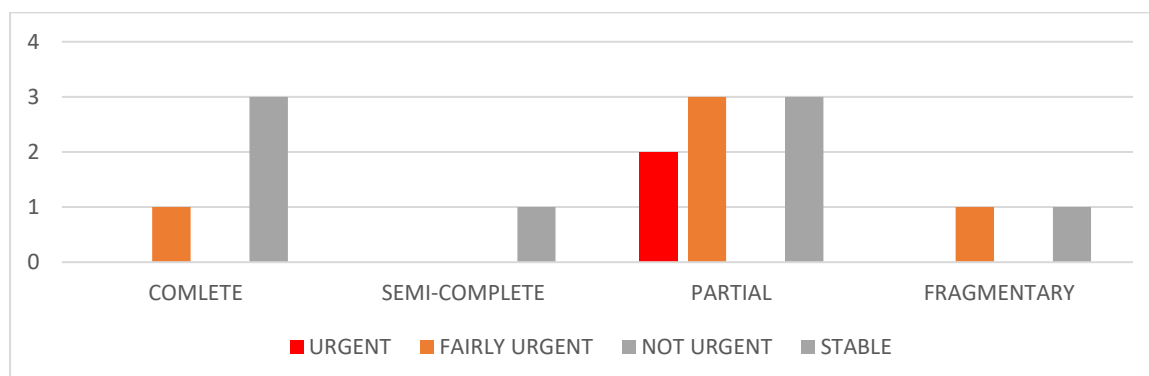**Figure 8. Preliminary Condition Assessment, Metropolitan Municipal District**

5.9 Newcastle West District: Archaeological & Architectural Assets

Within the Newcastle West electoral area, there are 18 disused or ruinous ecclesiastical structures which are Recorded Monuments protected under the National Monuments Act 1930-2004 (Amendments) or Protected Structures protected under the Planning Act.
There are 15 structures contained within graveyards vested in the Local Authority. Under a preliminary desk-top survey, these divide into: 4 complete, breaking down as, 1 fairly urgent and 3 stable; 1 semi-complete which is stable, 8 partial of which 2 are urgent, 3 are fairly urgent and 3 are stable, 2 fragmentary remains break down as 1 fairly urgent and 1 stable.
This gives a combined total of:2 urgent, 5 fairly urgent and 8 stable.
2 urgent (Semi complete) Ballynoe West, Clonelty and (Partial) Cloncrew which unfortunately lost its west gable during a storm in 2014. 5 fairly urgent (Complete) Mahoonagh; (Partial) Ardagh; Churchtown, Killeedy North; (Fragmentary) Dromcolliher.
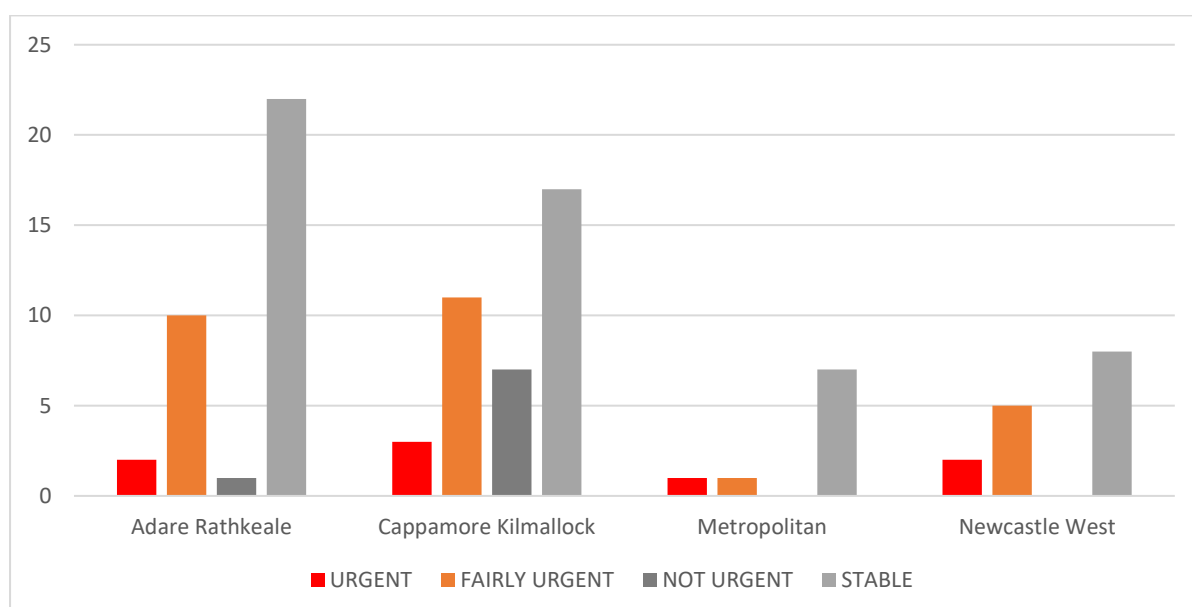

Figure 9. Preliminary Condition Assessment, Newcastle West Municipal District

The remaining churches are divided as follows: two are private (Glenmore East, Killeedy and Glenville, Rathronan) and the final ruin at Lacka Lower, Killagholehane is owned by the State and maintained by the OPW (also known as Killaliathan Church NM No. 86). Conservation projects have been carried out on various structures throughout the municipal area: Castletown Conyers (4 seasons) and works were carried out to the west gable of the church at Kilmeedy (Pallas townland) in 2015.

5.10   Summary of Preliminary Condition Assessment

In Limerick, there were 130 civil parishes, each of which would have had a parish church. There would also have been secondary churches and graveyards within parishes. In the Archaeological Survey there are 193 churches or 'site of' churches, to which 11 abbeys, still extant by the 19th century, could be added. This gives a potential total of 204 ecclesiastical sites. The current total of remains of ecclesiastical buildings is 138, of this number 97, (70% of extant) are vested in the Local Authority. Out of the total of 97 only 39 are complete/semi complete (28% of extant). This is only a 19% survival rate of the original estimated 204 total.

Figure 10. Overview of Preliminary Condition Assessment in the LA Graveyards

Table 12. Preliminary Condition Survey by Municipal District

Status	Adare Rathkeale	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Metropolitan	Newcastle West	Total
Urgent	02	03	01	02	08
Fairly urgent	10	11	01	05	27
Not urgent		08	-	-	08
Stable	22	17	07	08	54
Total	34	39	09	15	97

The structures deemed urgent should be prioritised for works particularly those located in graveyards regularly visited by the public. Vegetation control is required on other structures to enable a more rigorous condition survey to be carried out, this may increase the number of structures deemed urgently in need of works. The preliminary survey indicates that 35 structures or 36% of the total are in need of works in the short term.

6.0   Summary and Recommendations

Summary

A Burial Ground Strategy is required for Limerick City and County, that will address existing and future burial needs for the next 20 years and ensure the provision of burial grounds in the most appropriate locations. The Strategy must also look beyond 20 years, in particular in the Metropolitan area of Limerick, where there are limited lands available and also pressures on land for the provision of social and affordable housing and other land uses.

The strategy must pay particular attention to the proximity of burial grounds and the populations of areas served by these burial grounds. The strategy must give priority to areas where the need is greatest. The resources for capital funding provided by the Council are limited and therefore, it is important that these resources are used effectively.

The Strategy assessed capacity in each of the four Districts, Metropolitan, Cappamore-Kilmallock, Adare Rathkeale and Newcastle West. The findings of the Burial Ground Strategy were very positive, in that there is substantial capacity for burials in Limerick for the foreseeable future. However, the Strategy has identified that the available capacity is not always in the locations where it is required. The recommendations in relation to the findings in each of the districts are presented below. The recommendations range from acquisition of land in some areas to the provision of columbarium walls and cremation plots in a number of the burial grounds, in order to increase capacity. The recommendations also take into account future population growth.

In regard to the heritage structures in the Local Authority's own graveyards, the strategy has quantified the surviving assets and conducted a preliminary survey. A programme of detailed condition surveying, vegetation control and consolidation needs to be established. This will require a significant stream of funding for a period of years. Larger projects may be multi-annual, but there could be capacity to bundle smaller projects and address them within one financial year. A minimum annual budget of €100,000 would be required to see any appreciable result in dealing with the stock of Local Authority structures.

Recommendations

<u>Metropolitan District</u>

- To acquire a site for a new burial ground for the Ballysimon DED in the next 2 to 3 years.
- To deliver a Columbarium Garden for Mount Saint Lawrence in the next 2 to 3 years.
- To allocate funding for Columbarium Walls for Kilmurry and Castlemungret burial grounds.
- To develop appropriate areas for cremation plots in Mt St Lawrence, Mt St Oliver and Castlemungret burial grounds.
- To develop a Cremation Garden for Mount Saint Oliver in the longer term.
- To rezone land adjacent to Castlemungret burial ground for community use.
- To support the provision of a Muslim Community Burial Ground.

Cappamore-Kilmallock District

The western area of the District, Effin, Kilmallock and Bruree has sufficient capacity for the next 20 years and beyond. The eastern area surrounding Galbally and Ballylanders will require additional capacity. There is only one year capacity remaining in Ballylanders and nine years in Galbally burial grounds. Future capacity for Galbally can be sought by developing an extension to the existing burial ground in Ballylanders. This land is owned by the Council. The Cappamore/Abington Murroe Electoral Divisions also require a new burial ground, as Towerhill burial ground (Cappamore) has no capacity and there is only 5 years capacity remaining in Abington/Murroe.

Recommendations:

- To acquire a site for a new burial ground for Cappamore/Murroe area in the next 2 to 3 years.
- To acquire a site for a new burial ground in Bruff in the next 5 to 7 years.
- To develop an extension to Ballylanders burial ground in 2021
- To support the provision of a community burial ground in Hospital in the future.
- To explore any possible remaining capacity in Kilteely burial ground by Ground Penetrating Radar survey or support the provision of a community burial ground.

Adare Rathkeale District

There is adequate capacity in the existing burial grounds, in the areas of greatest population with the exception of Adare and Askeaton. A new burial ground is required for Adare and an extension of the existing burial ground in Askeaton is required in the very near future.

Recommendations:

- To acquire a site for a new burial ground in Adare in the next 2 to 3 years.
- To develop an extension to Askeaton burial ground in 2021.
- To support the provision of community burial grounds for Pallaskenry and Loghill.

Newcastle West District

The larger towns of Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale have capacity remaining of 15 years and 16 years in their respective burial grounds. The site adjacent to Newcastle West burial ground is available for sale as a possibility for a future extension. Site suitability for a new burial ground in Abbeyfeale has proven difficult and therefore consideration should be given to securing a site, in order to guarantee future provision. All other burial grounds have sufficient capacity or capacity provided for in burial grounds in close proximity.

Recommendations:

- To acquire site adjacent to the existing burial ground in Newcastle West
- To acquire a site for a new burial ground for Abbeyfeale

The following table summarises the locations where burial grounds are proposed for each of the Districts with an indicative timeframe for land acquisition where required and approximate timeframe for development.

	Timeframe	
Metropolitan	**Acquisition**	**Develop BG**
Ballysimon DED - Acquire site & develop new burial ground	2022-2023	2024-2026
Castlemungret BG - Install Columbarium Wall		2021-2022
Develop cremation plots		2021
Mount Saint Lawrence - Develop Columbarium Garden		2022-2026
Develop cremation plots		2021
Kilmurray BG - Install Columbarium Wall		2021
Mount Saint Oliver - Develop cremation plots		2021
Develop a Cremation Garden		2023-2025
Muslim Burial Ground – Support provision of community burial ground		2021/2022
Adare Rathkeale		
Askeaton - Develop extension to existing burial ground		2021
Adare - Acquire site and develop new burial ground	2022-2023	2024-2026
Pallaskenry – Support provision of community burial ground		
Loghill – Support provision of community burial ground		
Cappamore-Kilmallock		
Bruff - Acquire site for new burial ground	2025-2027	2027-2029
Ballylanders - Develop extension to existing burial ground		2021
Cappamore/Murroe - Acquire site & develop new burial ground	2022-2023	2024-2026
Hospital – Support provision of community burial ground		
Kilteely – Determine remaining capacity or support community burial ground		
Newcastle West		
Abbeyfeale - Acquire site & develop new burial ground	2021	2031-2033
Newcastle West - Acquire site & develop new burial ground	2021	2031-2033

Appendix A- List of Burial Grounds in Limerick

Name	Townland
Abbey	Abbey, Ballyorgan
Abbeyfeale , The Square	Abbeyfeale West
Abbeyfeale, Reilig Ide	Abbeyfeale West
Abbeyfeale, St Mary's	Abbeyfeale West
Abbeyfeale, (former C.O.I.)	Abbeyfeale East
Abington (Old) (C.O.I.)	Abington
Abington (Exten)	Abington
Adamstown	Adamstown
Adare, St Nicholas	Blackabbey
Adare (C.O.I.)	Blackabbey
Adare (Private)	Adare
Anglesborough (R.C.)	Anglesborough
Anhid	Anhid East, Croom
Annagh	Annagh
Ardagh (Old) St. Molua's	Minister's-Land
Ardagh (Exten)	Minister's-Land
Ardcanney, Mellon	Mellon
Ardkilmartin	Ardkilmartin, near Bulgaden
Ardpatrick (Old)	Ardpatrick
Ardpatrick (Exten)	Ardpatrick
Askeaton, Reilig Mhuire	Tomdeely North
Askeaton, St. Mary's (C.O.I.)	Askeaton
Askeaton Friary	Moig South
Athenasey , Elton	Ballinvana
Athlacca (Old)	Athlacca South
Athlacca (Exten)	Athlacca South
Athlacca (R.C.)	Rathcannon
Auglish (Old), Feohanagh	Appletown
Auglish (Exten)	Appletown
Baggotstown	Baggotstown East
Ballinacurra (Quaker)	Ballinacurra (*Bowman*), Limerick
Ballinard (Kyle)	Ballinard, Herbertstown
Balline, (Emlygrennan)	Balline
Ballingaddy	Ballingaddy North
Ballingaddy (Exten)	Ballingaddy North
Ballingarry	Ballingarry, near Ballylanders
Ballingarry, St David's	Rylanes
Ballingarry, St Mary's (Community)	Rylanes
Ballingarry, (former C.O.I)	Cloontemple
Ballinlough	Ballinlough

Ballinure, Mongfune	Mongfune
Ballybrood	Ballybrood
Ballybrown (Old) (former C.O.I.)	Glebe
Ballybrown (Kilkeedy) (Exten)	Glebe
Ballycahane	Ballycahane Upper, Fedamore
Ballylanders (New)	Ballylanders
Ballylanders (Old)	Ballylanders
Ballynaclough	Ballynaclough
Ballynahinch	Ballynahinch
Ballynakill	Ballynakill, Kilfinny
Ballynamona	Ballynamona
Ballysimon	Ballysimon
Banogue	Dohora
Beagh (Exten)	Beagh, Ballysteen
Beagh (Old)	Beagh, Ballysteen
Bruff, St. Peter & Paul's (R.C.)	Bruff
Bruff (former C.O.I.)	Bruff
Bruff, Teampuillin	Newtown
Bruree (New)	Garroose
Bruree (Old) (former C.O.I.)	Ballynoe
Bulgaden (R.C.)	Ballygrennan
Bulgaden (Exten) (R.C.)	Ballygrennan
Caherconlish (Old)	Caherconlish
Caherconlish (New)	Hundredacres East
Caherconlish (Exten)	Hundredacres East
Cahercorney	Cahercorney, Herbertstown
Caherelly (Old)	Caherelly West
Caherelly (Exten)	Caherelly West
Cahernarry	Cahernarry (*Cripps*)
Cappagh	Cappagh
Carnane, Taylor's Cross (Community)	Fanningstown
Carrigparson	Carrigparson
Castlecluggin	Castlecluggin
Castleconnell (C.O.I.)	Stradbally North
Castleconnell (New)	Stradbally North
Castlejane, Ballyscadden	Ryvescastle
Castlemahon (Old)	Mahoonagh Beg
Castlemahon (Exten)	Mahoonagh Beg
Castlemahon (Community)	Mahoonagh More
Castlemungret	Castlemungret
Castle-Erkin	Castle-Erkin South
Castletown Conyers (Community)	Castletown
Castletown Conyers (Old)	Castletown

Castletown (Old)	Moig East Glebe, Pallaskenry
Castletown (C.O.I.)	Moig East Glebe, Pallaskenry
Castletown	Carrig Beg, Doon
Clonagh	Clonagh
Cloncagh (Old)	Cloncagh
Cloncagh (New)	Cloncagh
Cloncrew	Cloncrew
Clonelty	Ballynoe
Clonkeen	Clonkeen (*Barrington*)
Clonshire, Templenacille	Clonshire More
Cloonanna	Cloonanna
Colmanswell (Old)	Gortroe
Colmanswell (Exten)	Gortroe
Coolcappagh (Community)	Coolcappagh
Copsewood, Cillurach, Chapelrussell (former C.O.I.)	Pallas
Crean	Crean, Boherard
Crecora (Old)	Glebe
Crecora (New)	Skehanagh
Crecora (Exten)	Skehanagh
Croagh (New) (Community)	Ballycannon
Croagh (Old)	Adamswood
Croom (Old) (C.O.I.)	Croom
Croom, Reilig Mhuire	Croom
Darragh	Darragh More
Donaghmore	Drombanny
Doon (Old)	Doon South
Doon (Exten B)	Doon South
Doon (Exten C)	Doon South
Doon (Exten D)	Doon South
Doon, Christ Church (former C.O.I)	Cooga Upper
Drehidtrasna	Drehidtrasna
Dromcollogher (Old)	Carroward West
Dromcollogher (Exten)	Carroward West
Dromin	Dromin South
Dromkeen	Dromkeen South
Dunnaman	Dunnaman, Croom
Duntryleague	Duntryleague
Effin (Old)	Effin
Effin (1st Exten)	Effin
Effin (2nd Exten)	Effin
Embury Heck (Methodist)	Ballingarrane
Fanningstown	Fanningstown, Crecora
Fedamore (Old)	Fedamore

Fedamore (Exten)	Fedamore
Feenagh	Gortnagluggin
Galbally (Old)	Galbally
Galbally (Exten)	Galbally
Glenlara, Laraghlawe, Auraclaw	Glenlary, near Glenbrohane
Glenogra	Glenogra
Glenroe (R.C.)	Spittle
Glenroe (Exten) (R.C.)	Spittle
Glin (C.O.I.)	Glin Demesne
Glin (R.C.)	Killacolla
Granagh (Old), Shanboha	Granagh
Granagh (New)	Granagh
Grange (R.C.)	Grange, Lough Gur
Grange	Grange Lower, Knockaderry
Hospital (Old)	Barrysfarm
Hospital (Exten)	Barrysfarm
Inch St Laurence (Old)	Inch St Laurence North
Inch St. Laurence (Exten)	Inch St Laurence North
Kilbehenny (C.O.I.)	Churchquarter
Kilbehenny, St. Joseph's R.C.	Castlequarter
Kilbradran	Kilbradran
Kilbreedy (Kilbreedy Minor)	Kilbreedy, near Tankardstown
Kilbreedy East (Kilbreedy Major)	Kilbreedy East
Kilcolman (Old)	Kilcolman, (near Ardagh)
Kilcolman (Exten)	Kilcolman, (near Ardagh)
Kilcolman East	Kilcolman East
Kilcornan	Blossomhill
Kilcornan (Exten)	Blossomhill
Kilcullane	Kilcullane, near Herbertstown
Kildimo (Old)	Kildimo
Kildimo (Exten)	Kildimo
Kildimo (Community)	Kildimo
Kilduffahoo	Kilduffahoo
Kilfergus (Old)	Kilfergus, Glin
Kilfergus (Exten)	Kilfergus, Glin
Kilfinnane (Exten)	Kilfinnane
Kilfinnane (Old)	Kilfinnane
Kilfinnane (C.O.I.)	Kilfinnane
Kilflynn (C.O.I.)	Ballyorgan
Killagholehane	Lacka Lower, Broadford
Killalee	Killalee, Limerick City
Killeedy (Old), St. Ita's	Killeedy North
Killeedy (Exten) St. Ita's	Killeedy North

Killeely, St Lelia's	Limerick Municipal Borough
Killeenagarriff	Killeenagarriff
Killeenoughty, Cealltar	Killeenoughty
Killonahan	Killonahan
Killonan	Killonan
Kilmacow	Kilmacow
Kilmallock, Collegiate Church	Kilmallock
Kilmallock (C.O.I.)	Deebert
Kilmeedy	Pallas
Kilmoylan	Kilmoylan
Kilmurry (Old)	Newcastle, Castletroy
Kilmurry (Exten)	Newcastle, Castletroy
Kilpeacon (C.O.I.)	Kilpeacon
Kilquane	Ballyhaght
Kilscannell	Kilscannell
Kilteely (Old)	Kilteely
Kilteely (Exten)	Kilteely
Kinard	Kinard, Glin
Knockainey, St. Mary's	Knockainey West
Knockainey (C.O.I.)St. John's	Knockainey West
Knockainey (Jewish)	Knockainey West
Knockainey (R.C.)	Knockainey West
Knocklong (Old)	Knocklong East
Knocklong (New)	Knocklong West
Knockpatrick	Knockpatrick
Kyletaun, Famine Graveyard	Rathkeale
Lemonfield, Knocknagaul	Lemonfield
Lismakeery	Lismakeery
Lough Gur, New Church (State ownership)	Lough Gur
Lough Gur (Old)	Patrickswell
Lough Gur (New) (Community)	Patrickswell
Lough Gur, Ballynagallagh	Ballynagallagh
Loughill	Loughill
Ludden Beg	Ludden Beg
Meanus (R.C.)	Meanus
Military Cemetery, Kings Island	Limerick City
Monaster (Infant's) (State ownership)	Monaster South
Monagay (Old)	Glebe
Monagea (Exten)	Glebe
Montpelier, Lisheen	Montpelier
Mount St Lawrence (Old)	Spital-Land, Limerick City
Mount St Lawrence (Exten, Phase 1)	Spital-Land, Limerick City
Mount St Lawrence (Exten, Phase 2)	Spital-Land, Limerick City

Mount St Oliver	Crossagalla
Mount Trenchard (C.O.I)	Loghill
Mountcollins (R.C.)	Mountcollins
Mountcollins (Exten) (R.C.)	Mountcollins
Mountpleasant	Morgans North
Mungret (Old), (Small)	Dromdarrig
Mungret (Old), (Abbey)	Dromdarrig
Mungret (Old), (C.O.I)	Dromdarrig
Mungret, St. Nessan's	Dromdarrig
Nantinan	Nantinan
Newcastle (Jewish)]	Newcastle, Castletroy
Newcastle West (Old), St David's	Churchtown
Newcastle West, Calvary	Churchtown
Old Pallas (Old)	Pallas
Old Pallas Ext	Pallas
Oola (Old)	Glebe
Oola, St Anthony's	Prospect
Pallasgreen, St Columba's	Garrane More
Pallasgreen, (former C.O.I.)	Garrane More
Patrickswell St Mary's	Attyflyn
Raheen	Raheen, Ballyneety
Rathjordan	Rathjordan
Rathkeale (Old), (C.O.I.)	Enniscoush
Rathkeale (R.C.) St Mary's	Rathkeale
Rathkeale (New) St Joseph's	Rathkeale
Rathnaseer	Rathnaseer
Rathronan	Glenville, near Ardagh
Robertstown	Robertstown
Rochestown	Rochestown
Rockbarton	Rockbarton
Rockstown	Rockstown
Shanagolden (New) (Exten)	Shanagolden Demesne
Shanagolden (Old)	Shanagolden Desmesne
Springfield (Old)	Springfield, Broadford
Springfield (Exten)	Springfield, Broadford
St Bridget's	Ballynanty Beg
St John's (C.O.I.)	Irishtown, Limerick City
St Mary's (C.O.I.)	Englishtown, Limerick City
St Michael's	Priorsland, Limerick City
St Munchin's (C.O.I.)	Englishtown, Limerick City
St Patrick's	Singland, Limerick City
St. Dominick's	Rossbrien
Tankardstown	Tankardstown South

Templeathea (Old)	Templeathea West
Templeathea (Holy Trinity)	Templeathea West
Templebredon	Templebredon
Templeglantine (Old)	Templeglentan West
Templeglentine (New)	Templeglentan East
Templemary, Howardstown	Cooleen
Tough	Tough, Adare
Tournafulla	Tournafulla
Towerhill	Tough, Cappamore
Tullabrackey	Tullabrackey
Uregare	Knockuregare

Appendix B - Map of Burial Grounds

- Operational Council
- Non-Operational Council
- Operational Community
- Non-Operational Community
- Operational Other Religion
- Non-Operational Other Religion
- Municipal Districts

Appendix C - Metropolitan District

Montpelier

Castleconnell - St. Joseph's
Castleconnell

Kilmurry - New
Annacotty

Coonagh

Mt. St. Lawrence - Old
Mt. St. Lawrence Ext - Phase 2
Mt. St. Lawrence Ext – Phase 1
Mt. St. Oliver

Murroe

Ballybrown Kilkeady - New
Mungret

Cb-kn
Castlemungret

Mungret - Ext

Abington

New Kildimo

Ferry Bridge

Drombanna

Eshan

Old Kildimo

Patrickswell

Ballyneety

Cahernublsh

Patrickswell - St. Mary's

Crecora

Burial Grounds
○ **Operational Council**
□ **Electoral divisions**
□ **Electoral areas**
□ **Municipal districts**

Appendix D - Cappamore Kilmallock Municipal District

Burial Grounds
- ● Operational Community
- ● Operational Council
- ● Operational Other Religion
- ▢ Electoral divisions
- ▢ Electoral areas
- ▢ Municipal districts

Burial Grounds
- Operational Community
- Operational Council
- Operational Other Religion
- Electoral divisions
- Electoral areas
- Municipal districts

Appendix F - Newcastle West Municipal District

Burial Grounds
- Operational Community
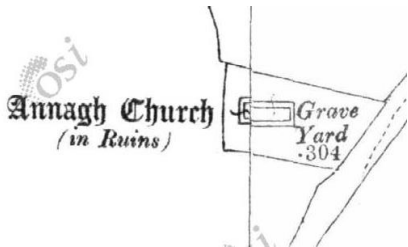- Operational Council
- Operational Other Religion
- Electoral divisions
- Electoral areas
- Municipal districts
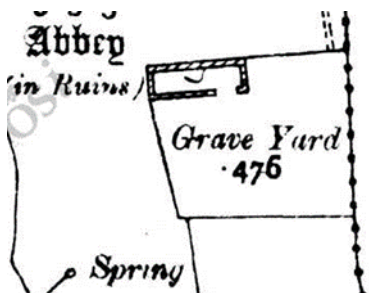
Appendix G – Image of Columbarium Wall

Appendix H – Catalogue of Heritage Assets

Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District

Townland: Abbey; **Civil parish**: Kilflyn; **Ownership**: LA (1880)
Status: RMP LI056-042002 RPS N/A; **Classification**: Religious House- Dominican Friars; **Date**: 14th century
Preservation:
OSL 1840s: It was 71 feet 8 inches [21.8m] by 21 feet 8 inches [6.6m]; the wall, 3 feet thick [0.9m], and in fair preservation. The west door and two south ones had flat arches; the east window, a round-headed splay arch; the lights gone before 1840. The south and two north windows, round-arched lights and splays.
Current: Very overgrown, most of east end fallen (check)

Survival: Semi-complete; Condition: Not urgent; Priority: Medium;

Interior from east 2019 (DSC0327)

Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District

Townland: Annagh; **Civil parish**: Abington; **Ownership**: LA (1880)
Status: RMP LI006-015001; RPS No.12; **Classification**: Church, possible chapel of ease; **Date**: 15th century,
Preservation
OSL 1840s small ruin about 60' x 20', walls about 10' high with burial place attached
Current: Conservation W wall 2008; E wall and S return require work; no vegetation

Survival: Complete; Condition: Not urgent; Priority: Medium;

Exterior from east