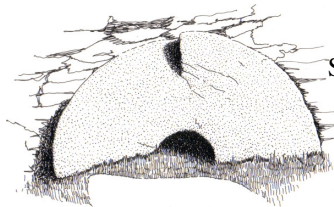


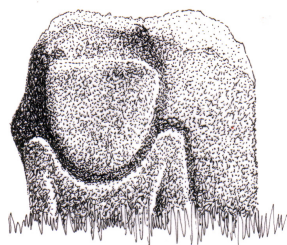
HIGH CROSS

1



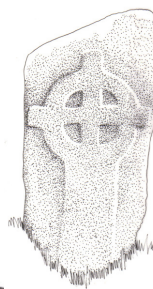
MILL STONE

6



MONK STONE

12

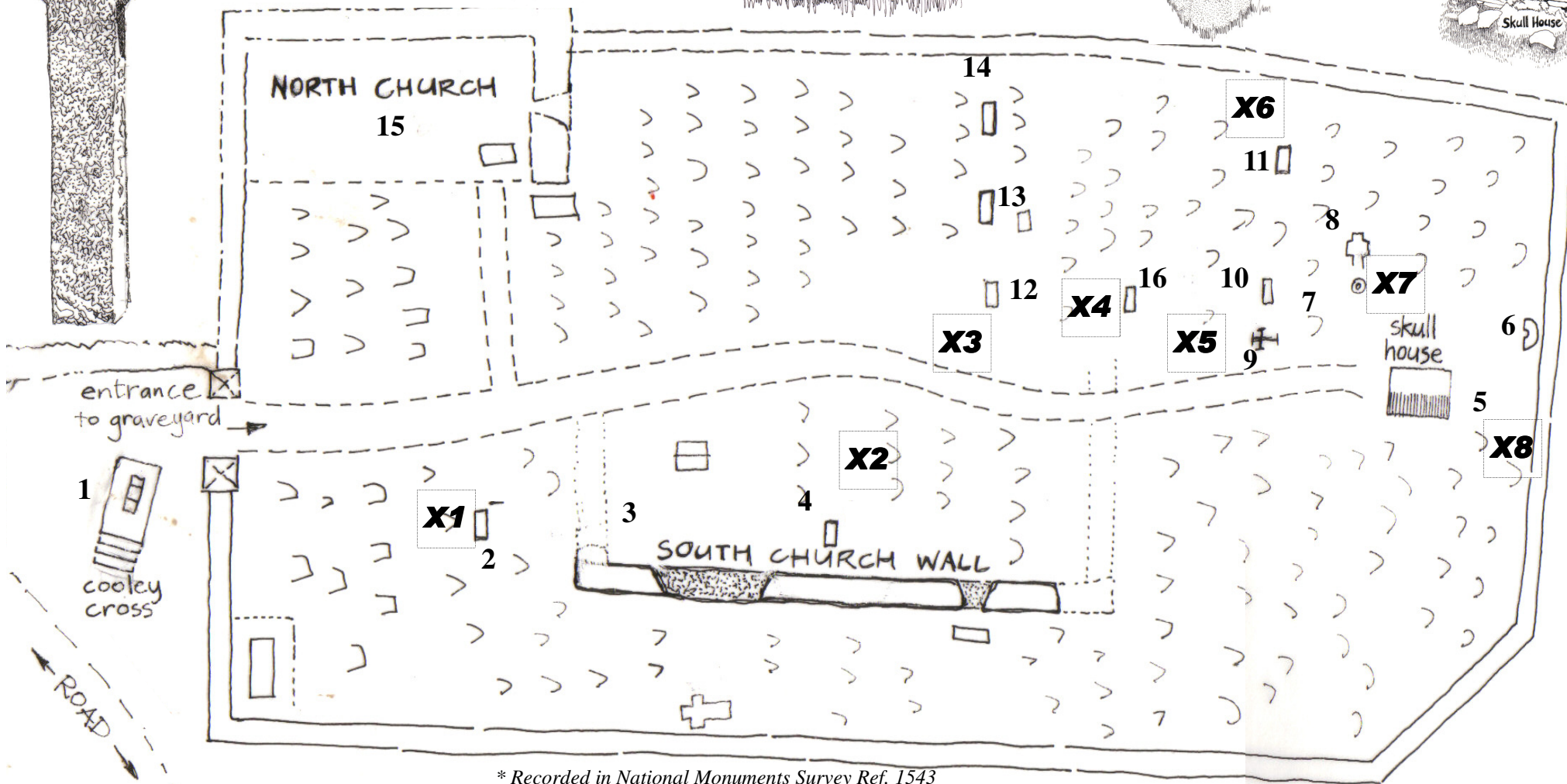


13



5

Skull House



* Recorded in National Monuments Survey Ref. 1543

1 High Cross: Wheel-Head design cross, *circa* 11th century.

2 'Cat's Eyes': Wheel-Head cross-inscribed slab, *circa* 10th century.

***3 South Church:** Church ruins with "Wall-Press", *circa* 13th century.

***4 Tee Stone:** Wheel-Head cross-inscribed slab, *circa* 10th century.

***5 Skull House:** Corbelled roof "Mortuary House", *circa* 12th century.

6 Mill Stone: Beehive millstone with punch dressed outer rim, *circa* 10th century.

***7 Basin Stone:** Mortar stone, *circa* 10th century.

8 Elizabeth Stone: Wheel-Head cross, *circa* 10th century.

***9 Latin Cross:** Latin cross-inscribed slab with central ring, *circa* 8th century.

10 Aylah Cross: Wheel-Head cross-inscribed slab, *circa* 10th century.

11 Martin Cross: Wheel-Head cross-inscribed slab, *circa* 10th century.

12 Monk Stone: Monk inscribed stone slab, *circa* 7th century.

***13 Recorded Cross:** Wheel-Head cross-inscribed slab, *circa* 9th century.

14 Allen Stone: Wheel-Head cross-inscribed slab, *circa* 9th century.

***15 North Church:** Church ruins with narrow lintelled window, *circa* 17th century.

16 Carolyne Stone: Corner stone of a large decorated window, *circa* 14th century.

COOLEY CROSS AND GRAVEYARD

Cooley Graveyard, Moville, Inishowen is an 'Early Ecclesiastical Site' (Ref. No. 1543). It is located 1.2km east of Moville. The name can be spelt Cooley or Cooily and translates as 'The Quarterland of the Woodland'. The old Irish name used by the monastery was 'Maigh Bhíle', translating as 'The Plain of the Ancient (Sacred) Tree' and was anglicised to Moville. Evidence suggests that this was an important Druidic site: there are several pre-Christian sites in the vicinity, including Cooly Standing Stone which could be a boundary stone for the ancient druid/ monastery site.

The site is notable for its wide views of Lough Foyle. It is recorded that St. Patrick set up a church known as 'Domnach Blii' at this site in the 5th century. The name Domnach or Donagh found in Irish place names refers to a church set up by St. Patrick - hence the Inishowen town of Carrndonagh.

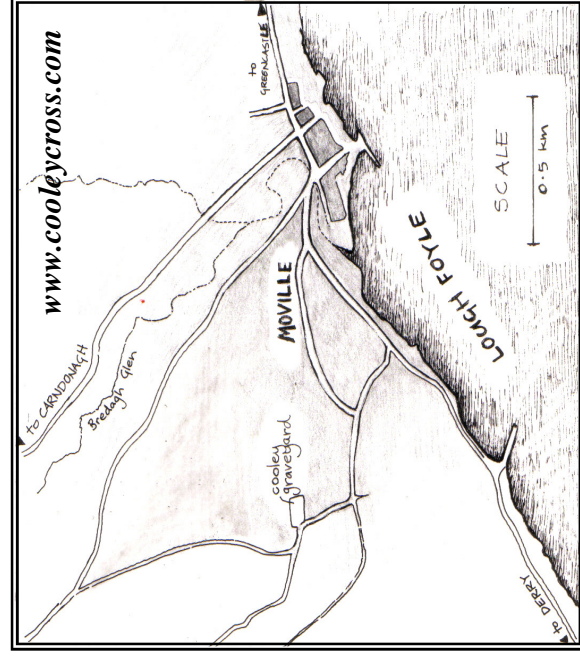
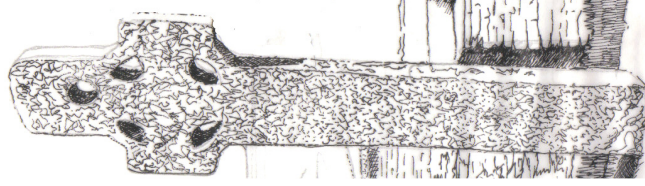
A monastery was then set up in the 6th century and lasted to at least the 12th century. Two possible earthen ring circles enclosing the site were found as part of a survey in 2011. It is said that St. Finian was the founder and early Abbot of the monastery and is buried at the site but none of this is likely to be true, it is more likely to have been linked to St. Colmcille and was later confused with a similar monastery in Co. Down.

There are the ruins of two churches to be found at the site; one a plantation church (north) built in 1622, the second (south) a parish church dating from the 14th century but possibly earlier, and is part of an older monastery church. Near the bottom of the graveyard is an unusual building, known locally as 'The Skull House'. This is a Mortuary House, built by the 12th century as a tomb or shrine for the bones or relics of the monastery's early Christian founder. There are only 5 examples of this type of building in Ireland, of which only three survive, this being the only one found in the Irish Republic.

Cooley Graveyard was used as a burial ground by Christian churches until the middle of the 20th century. The graveyard features several archaeological remains, notably the uncarved High Cross. Both the stones of the high cross and the socket in which it is set are known as 'Treaty Stones' which date from the Iron Age.

The Cooley High Cross is part of the site's rich collection of Wheel-Head Crosses which include another stone cross and six stone slabs within the graveyard. They are good examples of this famous design, and show how it developed between the 9th and 11th centuries. An 8th century Latin Cross with circle, which could be described as an earlier form of the Wheelled design, can also be found.

The map overlaid shows all the artefacts and ruins mentioned above as well as some other items of interest. There are 7 numbered wooden markers aimed at helping you locate positions, they are shown on the map as an X followed by the number, e.g. **X4** is marker number 4.



The **Cooley Committee** would like to thank all volunteers & sponsors involved in this project.

Text by Martin Hopkins.

Design & drawings by Brendan Farren.

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Sources.

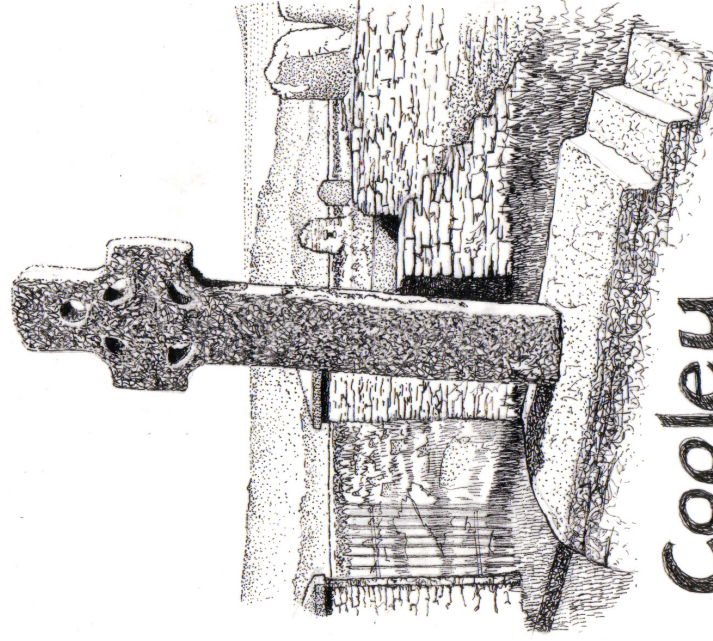
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D HÚN NA nGALL
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

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Cooley Cross + Graveyard

MOVILLE, CO. DONEGAL

HERITAGE MAP