THE DOs & DON’Ts OF HISTORIC GRAVEYARD MAINTENANCE

DO

☑ Check the ownership and legal status of the graveyard and the structures within it, and seek the owner’s permission to do work there.

☑ Contact both the National Monuments Service and the National Parks & Wildlife Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht before the project begins.

☑ Plan out the programme of work carefully, beginning with the least difficult tasks.

☑ Clear the site using only hand strimmers or other hand tools.

☑ Designate dump sites away from monuments.

☑ Survey the site, marking in the church, any other buildings and all gravestones and memorials.

☑ Retain healthy trees, and if planting new trees, choose native species.

☑ Leave all hummocks in the ground, they mark structural and archaeological features.

☑ Maintain existing pathways using gravel, small stones and grit.

☑ Keep boundary walls, banks and hedges.

☑ Wait until the site is cleared to decide on conservation of structural remains.

☑ Keep all architectural and sculptural fragments, record their position and report their finding to the National Monuments Service, Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht and to the National Museum.

THE DOs & DON’Ts OF HISTORIC GRAVEYARD MAINTENANCE

DO NOT

☒ Do not start without professional advice and a clear work plan.

☒ Do not try to demolish or remove anything from the site without the landowner’s permission and the approval of the National Monuments Service, Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.

☒ Do not dig graves near walls; they can cause structural damage.

☒ Do not attempt unlicensed excavation; it is illegal (this includes removal of rubble from collapsed walls).

☒ Do not use machinery to clear or level the site.

☒ Do not burn vegetation or use total spectrum weedkillers.

☒ Do not plant wild plants without expert consultation.

☒ Do not uproot ivy, trees, plants or gravestones.

☒ Do not pull ivy off buildings or trees.

☒ Do not pull ivy off fragile gravestones or composite tombs/memorials.

☒ Do not use wire brushes or sandblasters.

☒ Do not apply paint to gravestone inscriptions.

☒ Do not repoint any masonry without professional advice.

☒ Do not use ribbon pointing on old boundary walls or buildings.

☒ Do not level off pathways.

☒ Do not use graveslabs for paving.

☒ Do not lay new pathways without consulting an archaeologist.

☒ Do not move gravestones unnecessarily or without archaeological advice and supervision.

☒ Do not burn rubbish on site.