



Architectural Recording and Research

**Church of Ireland Church
Ballyhaise
County Cavan**



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On behalf of
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Proposed new path at Church of Ireland Church, Ballyhaise part of trail walk in Ballyhaise

Core Data:

Name:	Church of Ireland Church, Ballyhaise, County Cavan
Townland:	Townparks (Ed. Ballyhaise)
NIAH:	40401622
RPS:	CV16008
Rating:	Regional
Cat. Of Special Interest:	Architectural, Social, Artistic and Historic
Date of Inspection:	10 th October 2020

Description:

The Church of Ireland Church in Ballyhaise was built in 1820 and is located on an elevation site between the village of Ballyhaise and Ballyhaise House, now Ballyhaise Agricultural College. The church has a pitched slate roof, coursed rubble stone walls, round-headed window openings with ashlar surrounds and tracery with twin-lights and roundels in window heads. The door opening is located in the castellated three-stage tower with pinnacles. The chancel was added c.1890. The Gothic-style of this church is typical of early-nineteenth century church architecture in Ireland. The church is an important part of the architectural heritage of Ballyhaise.

Access to the church grounds is through decorative cast-iron double gates supported by square-profile rendered piers with stone copings and ball finials. A wrought-iron overthrow (arch over gate) is supported by the piers and is likely to have had a lantern.

The gates are set back from the raised path and flanked by curved rendered walls with rounded tops. The boundary wall continues across the front of the church grounds and along side the raised path.

The raised path to the west of the church (village side) has a stony surface with grass edges and a new concrete ramp over two stone steps at the end of the path. The path to the east of the church (Ballyhaise House side) has a grassy surface with a track worn by pedestrians. The path to the east leads to a pedestrian gate that accesses the grounds of Ballyhaise House. There are original limestone flat capstones on the edge of the rendered retaining walls supporting the raised path.

Both sides of the path measure approximately 46meters in length and at its highest point the raised path is approximately 4.5ft above the road level. The capstones are approximately 18" wide.

The raised path has a flight of 9 steps at its centre leading to the main entrance gates. The rendered retaining wall with flat stone capstones returns around the steps.

Proposed Works:

It is proposed to widen and extend a path from the village square in Ballyhaise towards the Church of Ireland Church, a protected structure, and continue the trail through Ballyhaise College property to create a loop walk as an amenity in the village.

The existing raised path at the church is unsafe and not suitable for public use. There are no railings to prevent a fall off the unprotected edge onto the road.

It is proposed to create a new path at road level in front of the church with a 1:12 gradient slope and railings at the east end of the path accessing trail entrance at Ballyhaise College.

Recommendations:

Having visited the site it is recommended that a path at road level be installed in front of the church.

At the east end of the path a 1:12 gradient slope will be formed to access the wooded path into Ballyhaise College at the high level. This solution will allow universal access to the proposed trail and avoid use of the existing raised path.

It is important that any proposed works do not impact on the historical character of the church and setting. It is equally important that any works carried out are reversible, that no original materials will be impacted or damaged in the installation of the path. It is therefore recommended that the path and ramp do not come into contact with the wall of the existing raised path. The proposed new path and ramp must be stepped back of distance of approximately 250-300mm.

It is crucial that materials and finishes used compliment the existing materials and finishes at the church. It is therefore recommended that stone kerbstones are installed on the paving in front of the church. It is also recommended that a dashed render, to match finish on the existing walls at the church, be used on the wall forming the ramp at the east end of the path.

It is important that a railing type and style used on the ramp that is in keeping with the historic character of the setting is selected. Compacted Ballylusk gravel (or locally sourced similar) should be considered as a suitable surface for the new path.

The Church of Ireland church at Ballyhaise is a protected structure. This protection extends to its curtilage and setting and therefore includes the burial ground, boundary wall, access steps and raised path with retaining walls.

No further unauthorized works should be carried out at Ballyhaise Church of Ireland Church. Please consult with the relevant planner or Heritage Officer for advice on suitable works.



Preliminary mock-up of proposed path – June 2021

Please not existing wall and should not be impact by installation of new path.

Not shown in this mock-up image



**Location of proposed new path at Ballyhaise Church od Ireland Church
(protected structure)**

Photographs:



Figure 1: View of main entrance gates to church



Figure 2: View of church with steps and raised path



Figure 3: View of raised path and retaining wall



Figure 4: New ramp installed recently at west end of raised path



Figure 5: New handrails fitted to steps



Figure 6: Safety handrail at steps



Figure 7: View of retaining wall to east (Ballyhaise College side)



Figure 8: Detail of rendered raised wall with flat copingstones



Figure 9: View of retaining wall to west (village side)



Figure 10: Tarmacadam surface at steps and leading to entrance gates



Figure 11: Grassy surface to raised path leading towards Ballyhaise College (east end)



Figure 12: Stony surface to raised path leading towards village



Figure 13: Detail of limestone flat coping stones forming edge of raised path



Figure 14: Access to Ballyhaise College from end of east raised path



Figure 15: Detail of herringbone wall bounding part of Ballyhaise College land at end of raised path



Suitable railing type: Flat-iron posts.