

Cosmona, Loughrea, Co. Galway Archaeological Impact Assessment

Licence:	25E0653
Client:	Galway County Council
Archaeologist:	Maeve McCormick
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Cosmona, Loughrea, Co. Galway

Archaeological Impact Assessment and Test Excavation

SITE NAME	Cosmona, Loughrea
CLIENT	Galway County Council
INVESTIGATION TYPE	Archaeological Impact Assessment
LICENCE NO	25E0653, 25R0202
PLANNING REF	Galway Co Co LA08/24
TOWNLAND	Cosmona
IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR	561753, 717228
RMP NO	n/a
RPS NO	n/a
ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT	Archer Heritage Planning Ltd.
ARCHAEOLOGIST	Maeve Mc Cormick
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SUMMARY

This archaeological impact assessment was undertaken on lands at Cosmona, Loughrea, Co. Galway (Centre of site ITM 561753, 717228). The c.2.5 ha site is greenfield. The geophysical survey was conducted in June 2025 by Bart Korfanty (25R0202) and was followed by test excavations and desk based study conducted in August by Maeve McCormic (25E0653) of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. The assessment was undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development. It aims to identify and describe known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the site and offer recommendations for the mitigation of such impacts. The following factors were identified during the assessment:

- The subject site is large in scale and measures c. 2.5 Ha in extent.
- There are no RMPs within the subject site but two are located in close proximity (GA105-066---, Burial ground and GA105-069----, Mass rock).
- No new archaeological features or increased archaeological potential were noted within the subject area from the study of cartographic sources.
- No new archaeological features or increased archaeological potential were noted within the subject area from the study of aerial photography.
- There were no previous licensed archaeological excavations undertaken within the subject site.
- No stray finds are recorded at the subject site.
- There are no buildings or structures of architectural significance located within the subject site.
- The subject area is not within an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA).
- A site visit revealed no new features of archaeological potential.
- Geophysical survey (25R0202) identified no potential archaeological features.
- A total of 718 linear meters of test trenches were mechanically excavated across the site, No archaeological sites, features or finds were discovered.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The site (2.5 Ha) is large in scale however no archaeological features or finds were recorded during desktop survey, geophysical survey or test trenching. As such, the potential for the continued survival of buried archaeological sites and features within the site is low.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No further works required

NOTE: All conclusions and recommendations expressed in this report are subject to the approval of The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and the relevant local authorities. As the statutory body responsible for the protection of Ireland's archaeological and cultural heritage resource, the DHLGH may issue alternative or additional recommendations.

Revision	Status	Date	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Issued by
1	Final	11/08/2025	MMC	AOC	CMG

1. INTRODUCTION

This archaeological impact assessment was undertaken on a site at Cosmona, Loughrea, Co. Galway (Centre of site ITM 561753, 717228). The subject site covers an area of approximately 2.5 hectares (ha). The geophysical survey was undertaken by B. Korfanty in June 2025 under licence 25R0202 followed by the licensed archaeological test excavation undertaken on 5th - 6th of August 2025 under excavation licence 25E0653 issued to Maeve Mc Cormick by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland (NMI). This report aims to identify and describe known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the site and offer recommendations for the mitigation of such impacts.

1.1 Proposed development

It is proposed to construct 56no. unit housing development comprising of 44 houses, 12 apartments, car parking, connections to existing services and all ancillary site development works.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The c.2.6 ha subject area is located to the north of Loughrea town centre. The site is located at the south of Cosmona Townland. It comprises one rhomboidal field and small portions of two adjacent fields. The site is bounded to the north by Hazelwood Housing Estate, R350 Road to the east, there are no physical boundaries to the south and west. The area of the site is greenfield.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

The following sources were consulted in the preparation of this report:

- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)/ Sites and Monuments Records
- Aerial photography
- Historical maps
- Documentary research
- Relevant on-line databases (e.g. Excavation Bulletin; NRA Archaeological Database)
- Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland
- Galway County Development Plan 2023-2029

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Brief archaeological & historical background (from Mary Henry report)

Despite the presence of three crannogs in Lough Rea, an early ecclesiastical site around St Brigid's Church to the east of the town and a possible early church at St. Brendan's in the town itself, there are no pre-Norman documentary references to Loughrea and it is not until after the invasion of Connacht that it first appears in historical documents. After this invasion Loughrea became the principal manor of Richard de Burgh's and the intended capital of Anglo-Norman Connacht. The principal reason affecting de Burgh's choice of site would have been Loughrea's strategic controlling position at the gap between the Sliabh Aughty Mountains and the Williamstown–Kilreekil Ridge.

The topography of the medieval town appears to have been slightly different from what is seen today. Environmental evidence suggests that the level of the lake seems to have been higher and it encroached more on the southern side of the town than currently. The street pattern of the medieval town was linear, comprising of two main east–west streets, Main Street and Barrack Street, with a series of short north–south lanes connecting the two streets. However, it appears that Barrack Street did not extend originally as far to the west as it does today. A map of Loughrea dated 1791 shows it terminating at the foot of Castle Street. The southern side of today's modern town is of early 19th-century date when Barrack Street was widened northwards and realigned so as to bypass the medieval town gate, the market square was evidently created about this time also. There is little doubt that the medieval town had a market, the medieval marketplace was located in Main Street which was known until 1821 as Market Street.

The town's defences, apart from a reference dated 1574 that mentions that the town was well trenched and that the wall was unfinished in 1574, are not listed in any other documentary references. In John Bradley's and Noel Dunne's Urban Archaeology Survey of County Galway, they state that medieval Loughrea's defences formed a rectangular area which is still defined today by a feature known as the 'watercourse' which is in fact the remains of the medieval water-filled fosse that protected the town. This water-filled fosse runs from Mahoney's Bridge, beside the Court House, where it enters Lough Rea on the west to Dolphin Street on the north, following the line of 'The Walk' to where it joins the stream which connects it up once more with Lough Rea on the south. The watercourse averages 2.5m in width but test work by Paul Gosling along the southwest sector of the town in 1986 revealed that it was originally 1.5m wide.

Gwynn and Hadcock also suggest the presence of a hospital associated with medieval Loughrea and that there was a chapel or house of lepers in Loughrea in the Middle Ages and if so it was probably dedicated to St Laurence; however, nothing further is known about it and its location is unclear.

Outside the town is also the Church of St Brigid, the remains of which are located immediately east of the town. Traces of a potential early ecclesiastical enclosure can be determined in the line of the

townland boundary to the south-east of the church, between the townland of Loughrea and Farranalynch, and also in the curve of Danesfort Road, west of the church site. When complete this would have defined a rough circular area of 200m. The church itself measures 15m by 7.5m. The east gable has a base batter and the remains of a late medieval window. The shrine of St Brigid's Shoe seems to have been associated with this church and when the Carmelite nuns established themselves at Loughrea in 1680 they appear to have been first based here or near here.

4.2 Record of Monuments & Places

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a statutory inventory of archaeological sites protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 (Section 12, 1994 Act), compiled and maintained by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI). The inventory concentrates on pre-1700 AD sites and is based on a previous inventory known as the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) which does not have legal protection or status (see www.archaeology.ie).

There are no RMPs within the subject area, however, there are two RMPs in close proximity to the subject area. A Burial Ground (GA105-066) lies directly SW of the site and a Mass Rock (GA105-069) lies 150m to the SW (Figure 1). See Appendix 1 below

4.3 Cartographic Sources

Analysis of historic mapping can show human impact on landscape over a prolonged period. Large collections of historical maps (pre- and early Ordnance Survey maps as well as estate or private maps) are held at the Glucksman Map Library, Trinity College and other sources (UCD Library, Ordnance Survey Ireland, local libraries and published material). The development of the site and its vicinity recorded in nineteenth and twentieth century cartography is described below (Figure 3).

The First Edition OS map (1841) showed the subject area to incorporate entirety of the central field and small portions of fields to the W and S. The land is depicted as agricultural in use. The RMP GA105-066--- Burial Ground is marked as a graveyard. Subsequent editions of OSI mapping up to 1915-20 show no change in the layout of the land division or any other changes in immediate surroundings. No areas of enhanced archaeological potential were noted during the study of historical mapping.

4.4 Aerial photography

Aerial photography (or other forms of remote sensing) may reveal certain archaeological features or sites (earthworks, crop marks, soil marks) that for many reasons may not be appreciated at ground

level. Online orthostatic photographs of the site were examined (Ordnance Survey Ireland 1995, 2000 & 2005; Google Earth Pro 2000-2022; Google/Bing Maps 2020).

The subject site is visible on aerial photographic sources between 1995 until 2025 as a greenfield site. There are no changes within the site on all of the available imagery. No areas of enhanced archaeological potential were noted during the study of aerial photography (Figure 4).

4.5 Previous Archaeological Excavations

The Excavation Bulletin is a database of summary accounts of archaeological excavations in Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1970 onwards. Summaries relating to archaeological excavations undertaken by the National Roads Authority are also available on-line and were consulted for any adjacent sites. Reports on licensed archaeological works are also held by the Archive Unit of the National Monuments Section.

There have been no previous excavations within the subject site. A small number of excavations have taken place in the wider area. The closest excavation is located c. 200m SE of the subject site (1987:19):

The site lies in the garden of a 19th-century house in the south-western corner of the medieval part of Loughrea town. It is bounded on the west by a stream flowing northwards from the lake, c. 50m to the south.

The site was due for development and during the digging of engineer's test pits a watching brief undertaken by Mr Paul Gosling (Director, Arch. Survey of Co. Galway), recorded the existence of a wall running north-south adjacent to the stream. As this wall lay on the line of the old town wall, an excavation was undertaken from 13-18 April 1987 to establish the date and nature of this wall and of a building marked 'Turret' (O.S. 1st ed.) located on the line of this wall. The excavation was funded by the developer, G. McInerney Ltd, Loughrea, and by a grant from the Dept. of Archaeology, U.C.G.

Three trenches each measuring 2m by 3-3.5m were opened along the line of the wall on the east bank of the stream. The southernmost trench lay adjacent to the 'Turret'. A wall, 0.65m wide, was uncovered. This stood on a low footing laid on natural. Its eastern side, including the footing, survived to a height of 0.3m while its western side was offset on a footing 0.7m high, which also served as a revetment to the east bank of the stream.

The wall was not located in test pits to the south of the 'Turret'. The material overlying the wall appears to have been produced by the reclamation of the area from the lake and by the construction of a garden in the 19th century. No finds of pre-late 19th-century date were recovered.

The 'Turret' proved to be a 19th-century red brick structure – hence its description as a 'Summer House' (O.S. 2nd ed.) This 'Summer House' was built on a small bridge that cut through the wall.

The wall, judging by its position and extent and by early maps of Loughrea, would appear to have been built in the 16th or 17th century. At this time the lake level may have been dropping and was no longer providing a natural defence to this part of the town.

All the early maps show that this area was uninhabited until the lake reclamation in the 19th century. This would explain the absence of finds contemporary with the wall.

The details of excavations in the vicinity of the site are outlined in Appendix 2.

4.6 Topographical files

The National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files is the national archive of all known antiquities recorded by the National Museum listed by county and townland/street. These files relate primarily to artefacts but also include references to monuments and contain a unique archive of records of previous archaeological excavations. The Museum files present an accurate catalogue of objects reported to that institution from 1928. **There is one stray find present in the townland of Cosmona. 1958:93 Polished Stone Axehead.**

4.7 Architectural Heritage

Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility to safeguard architectural heritage in accordance with Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000. Under S.51 (1), a County Council must compile a Record of Protected Structures (RPS), which lists all structures which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest. The protection, unless otherwise stated, includes the exterior and interior of the structure, lands lying within its curtilage (boundary), other structures and their interiors within the curtilage, plus all fixtures and fittings which form part of the interior or exterior of any of these structures. Buildings can be added to, or deleted from the RPS at any time, though generally this occurs when the county development plan is being reviewed.

There are no Protected Structures located within the subject site. The closest Protected Structure to the subject site is St. Josephs Monastery (RPS 2830), located c. 120m S of the subject site. The same building is listed on NIAH (30337001):

Detached nine-bay two-storey monastery with advanced pedimented central and end bays, conserved 1833. The rendered facade has an Ionic stone doorcase. The chapel interior was renovated 1981 but retains decorative ceiling plasterwork.

The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), provides that all development plans must now include objectives for preserving the character of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). An ACA is a place, area, groups of structures or townscape of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest, or which contribute to the appreciation of protected

structures, and whose character it is an objective of a development plan to preserve. In these areas, the protection of the architectural heritage is best achieved by controlling and guiding change on a wider scale than the individual structure, in order to retain the overall architectural or historic character of an area. **There is no ACA at this site in Cosmona. The nearest is in Loughrea c.200m to the south.**

4.8 Site Inspection

The site was visited in June 2025 in very dry and warm conditions. The site consists of two low lying fields separated by a drystone wall and hedge line/treeline which has been breached in parts. St. Josephs Monastery is located to the south. No areas of enhanced archaeological potential were noted.

4.9 Geophysical Survey (25R0202)

A geophysical survey took place within the subject area carried out by B. Korfanty of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. under licence No 25R0202. The survey located a variety of magnetic anomalies. None of these are related to possible archaeological features. A small number of the findings relate to modern objects present within the top-soil or present on the ground.

5. TEST EXCAVATION

5.1 Introduction

Test excavation was undertaken by Maeve Mc Cormick on the 6th to 7th of August 2025 in dry, overcast conditions. 8 test trenches; 718 linear meters were excavated by mechanical excavator under constant archaeological supervision. Trenches 7 and 8 were shortened, allowing safe clearance from overhead ESB lines. Trenches were set out with the aid of a Geomax Zenith 15 GPS receiver accurate to <2cm. They were positioned across the site with the aim of assessing the findings of geophysical survey and general archaeological potential of the site. Trench locations were agreed in advance with the NMS. Topsoil was removed with the aid of a mechanical excavator equipped with a grading bucket and working under constant archaeological supervision. Each trench was inspected visually for archaeological remains and all trenches were reinstated following completion of the archaeological works.

5.2 Results

A total of 718 linear meters of test trenches were mechanically excavated across the site under constant archaeological supervision (Figure 6; Plates 1-8). The exposed subsoil varied between locations; in trenches T1 and T2 the subsoil consisted of a compact blue-clay with lime bedrock just under the

topsoil. In trenches T3-T5 the subsoil consisted of a mixture of blue heavy clay and orangeish silty-clay with frequent medium stones. In trenches T7 and T8 the subsoil consisted of dark grey silty clay. The trenches varied in depth from 0.3 to 0.6m. Small amounts of modern pottery fragments were observed distributed randomly within the topsoil across the site.

Trench	L x B x D (metres)	Orientation	Description
1	90 x 1.8 x 0.3	NW/SE	Shallow bedrock under topsoil, no archaeology
2	35 x 1.8 x 0.42	NW/SE	Clean, silty-clay subsoil, no archaeology
3	100 x 1.8 x 0.6	SW/NE	Silty-clay subsoil with occasional large stones, no archaeology
4	100 x 1.8 x 0.42	SW/NE	Clean, silty-clay subsoil, no archaeology
5	100 x 1.8 x 0.38	SW/NE	Clean, silty-clay subsoil, no archaeology
6	100 x 1.8 x 0.43	SW/NE	Silty clay subsoil with occasional stones, no archaeology
7	117 x 1.8 x 0.35	SW/NE	Dark brown silty-clay subsoil, no archaeology. The trench was shortened due to the presence of overhead ESB lines
8	76 x 1.8 x 0.37	SW/NE	Dark brown silty-clay subsoil, no archaeology. The trench was shortened due to the presence of overhead ESB lines
TOTAL: 718 linear meters.			

Table 2: Test trenching results

5.3 Conclusions

A total of 718 linear meters of test trenches were mechanically excavated across the site under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were excavated at locations previously agreed with the DHLGH and positioned regularly across the site. The areas of magnetic trends 1 and 2 were not discernible within the excavated trenches. **No archaeological sites, features or finds were discovered during works.**

6. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 Summary of Archaeological Potential

This archaeological impact assessment was undertaken on lands at Cosmona, Loughrea, Co. Galway (Centre of site ITM 561753, 717228). The c.2.5 ha site is currently greenfield. The geophysical survey was conducted in June 2025 by Bart Korfanty (25R0202) and was followed by test excavations and desk based study conducted in August by Maeve McCormic (25E0653) of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. The assessment was undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development. It aims to identify and describe known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the site and

offer recommendations for the mitigation of such impacts. The following factors were identified during the assessment:

- The subject site is large in scale and measures c. 2.5 Ha in extent.
- There are no RMPs within the subject site but two are located in close proximity (GA105-066---, Burial ground and GA105-069----, Mass rock).
- No new archaeological features or increased archaeological potential were noted within the subject area from the study of cartographic sources.
- No new archaeological features or increased archaeological potential were noted within the subject area from the study of aerial photography.
- There were no previous licensed archaeological excavations undertaken within the subject site.
- No stray finds are recorded at the subject site.
- There are no buildings or structures of architectural significance located within the subject site.
- The subject area is not within an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA).
- A site visit revealed no new features of archaeological potential.
- Geophysical survey (25R0202) identified no potential archaeological features.
- A total of 718 linear meters of test trenches were mechanically excavated across the site, No archaeological sites, features or finds were discovered.

6.2 Impact Assessment

The site (2.5 Ha) is large in scale however no archaeological features or finds were recorded during desktop survey, geophysical survey or test trenching. As such, the potential for the continued survival of buried archaeological sites and features within the site is low.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

No further works required

NOTE: All conclusions and recommendations expressed in this report are subject to the approval of The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and the relevant local authorities. As the statutory body responsible for the protection of Ireland's archaeological and cultural heritage resource, the DHLGH may issue alternative or additional recommendations.

8. REFERENCES

8.1 Bibliography

Gwynn, A. & Hadcock, R. N. 1988. *Medieval Religious Houses: Ireland*. Irish Academic Press. Dublin.

8.2 Web references

Online Excavations bulletin www.excavations.ie [accessed August 2025]

Aerial Photography <http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html> [accessed August 2025]

Cartographic sources www.geohive.ie [accessed August 2025]

Online Archaeological Survey of Ireland www.archaeology.ie [accessed August 2025]

Galway County Council Development Plan (2023-2029) [accessed August 2025]

<https://www.galwaycity.ie/services/planning/development-plan-2023-2029>



Maeve Mc Cormick

11th August 2025

APPENDICES*Appendix 1: Table of RMP/SMR sites in vicinity of site*

SMR No	Class	Townland	ITM	Distance to site
GA105-066----	Burial ground	COSMONA	561591, 717146	800m E
No information currently available				
GA105-067----	Redundant record	COSMONA	560780, 717345	380m N
This record relates to a field boundary; it is not an archaeological monument.				
GA105-068----	Kiln - lime	COSMONA	561136, 717386	500m NW
No information currently available				
GA105-069----	Mass-rock	COSMONA	561565, 717006	760m E
No information currently available				

Appendix 2: Previous Archaeological Excavations

Ref:	Licence No.	RMP No.	Site Name	Investigation type
2020:651	Consent C000865; E005094	GA105-150	The Walks, Loughrea	Monitoring
Archaeological monitoring was carried out on the second phase of conservation works at The Walks, Loughrea townland, Loughrea, Co. Galway, on 14 August 2020, under an extension to Ministerial Consent C000865. The lining of the north face of 'the watercourse', which comprised poorly-preserved walling of drystone construction along the line of the medieval fortifications, was taken down by mechanical means to the water level. A 0.7m-wide area to the rear of the lining was reduced by c. 1.35m in average depth. There were only modern finds discovered in the excavated soil but two architectural fragments (Find No.'s E005094:2 and :3) were retrieved from the rubble of the stone lining. No other finds or features were discovered during the excavation of topsoil from the rear of the stone facing. The conservation works progressed to rebuild the stone lining.				
2019:034	Ministerial Consent C000910 E005030	GA105-150	rear of Main Street, Loughrea	Testing
Pre-development testing was carried out over a three-day period, from 6-11 February 2019, at the site of the proposed housing development at the rear of Main Street, Loughrea townland, Loughrea, Co. Galway. The proposed development site is located immediately to the south of The Walks, a late-eighteenth-century pleasure promenade that runs east-west across the northern limits of the medieval town, and its associated 'watercourse', which is a narrow trout stream that follows the line of the medieval moat. Eight trenches, varying in length from 6m to 20m and 1m in width, were excavated at the site. Two stone-lined drains were discovered at the site, one running north-south from the boundary wall to the Walks and one in the centre of the site, also orientated north-south, some 15m south of the boundary wall to the Walks. In a further two trenches along the northern boundary of the site, a linear cut with a grey fill was discovered, running east-west. The cut and fill were c. 1.4m in width and they were recorded but not excavated during the pre-development testing. The finds discovered throughout the site indicate activity dating to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.				
2007:653	07E0697	GA105-150	LOUGHREA: 9 Abbey Street	Testing
Pre-development testing was carried out on the site of a proposed extension to a terraced house at No. 9 Abbey Street, Loughrea, Co. Galway, on 31 July 2007. The site is located in the northern part of the zone of potential around the historic town of Loughrea. The town moat, a remnant of the medieval defences of Loughrea now known as 'The Watercourse', runs just a few metres to the north of the site. Testing comprised the excavation of a single trench on the footprint of the proposed extension. Loose dark-brown silty garden soil, averaging 0.3m in thickness, overlay grey glacial till in the west of the trench and yellow boulder clay in the east. No archaeological material was uncovered.				
2010:356	10E0374	GA105-151	LOUGHREA	Testing
Trial-trenching was carried out at the site of a proposed graveyard extension adjacent to the Carmelite Abbey in Loughrea, Co. Galway, on 8 September 2010. Seven trial-trenches were excavated at the site and nothing of archaeological significance was recovered.				
2019:033	Ministerial Consent C000921; E005037	GA105-150	Dolphin Street, Loughrea	Testing
Pre-development testing was carried out on 1 March 2019, at the site of the proposed housing development at Dolphin Street, Loughrea, Co. Galway. A single trench, measuring 30m east-west and 1m in width, was excavated to undisturbed natural in places. The stratigraphy was seen to comprise almost entirely of disturbed fills, with three different services cutting through the trench at various levels. Nothing of archaeological significance was discovered during the works.				
2020:257	Ext C000921;	GA105-150	Dolphin Street/Abbey Street,	Monitoring

Ref:	Licence No.	RMP No.	Site Name	Investigation type
	E005037	GA105-150001	Loughrea	
Phase 1 of works at Dolphin Street and Abbey Street, Loughrea, Co. Galway included the archaeological monitoring of the demolition of the buildings, metal detection of spoil removed from the 'watercourse', excavation of 2 geo-technical test pits and the resolution of the extent and date of a drain feature recorded in a previous assessment. Phase 2 is expected to be carried out in mid-2021, this will involve monitoring of groundworks and metal detecting to facilitate in the retrieval of finds. The monitoring of the demolition and excavation works at Dolphin and Abbey Streets was carried out over a period of 5 weeks. The buildings were constructed of stone and concrete and dated to the latter part of the 19th century. No features and or finds of archaeological/architectural significance were revealed during the course of the demolition and removal of demolition rubble. The spoil previously removed from 'the watercourse' was spread out, and a metal detector was used to scan the material. All the finds dated to the 20th century and were comprised of bottles, plastic fragments. The stone drain ran north-south for a length of 6m; it had been disturbed at both north and south ends. It measured 1.55m in width and was comprised of numerous large cap stones (500mm x 250mm x 100mm) with smaller packing stones (averaging 250mm x 250mm x 80mm), set into a redeposited natural at the edges. It was U-shaped in section, with small stones at base, dims. 1.1m in width, 0.5m in depth and cut into the natural. Excavations found no evidence of the drain beyond the foundation wall and it would appear to be associated with the schoolhouse dating to the 19th century. The stratigraphy encountered in the engineer's test pit located in the west of the site revealed the building rubble overlying natural layers. Monitoring of the engineer's test pit in the east of the site, along Abbey Road, revealed building rubble overlying a deposit of stones and a black humic clay. Due to its proximity to the Carmelite Abbey (GA105:152) it is recommended that further archaeological monitoring be carried out in this area, prior to the commencement of groundworks.				
1987:19	N/A	N/A	FAIRGREEN, Loughrea	Monitoring
The site lies in the garden of a 19th-century house in the south-western corner of the medieval part of Loughrea town. It is bounded on the west by a stream flowing northwards from the lake, c. 50m to the south. The site was due for development and during the digging of engineer's test pits a watching brief undertaken by Mr Paul Gosling (Director, Arch. Survey of Co. Galway), recorded the existence of a wall running north-south adjacent to the stream. As this wall lay on the line of the old town wall, an excavation was undertaken from 13-18 April 1987 to establish the date and nature of this wall and of a building marked 'Turret' (O.S. 1st ed.) located on the line of this wall. The excavation was funded by the developer, G. McInerney Ltd, Loughrea, and by a grant from the Dept. of Archaeology, U.C.G. Three trenches each measuring 2m by 3-3.5m were opened along the line of the wall on the east bank of the stream. The southernmost trench lay adjacent to the 'Turret'. A wall, 0.65m wide, was uncovered. This stood on a low footing laid on natural. Its eastern side, including the footing, survived to a height of 0.3m while its western side was offset on a footing 0.7m high, which also served as a revetment to the east bank of the stream. The wall was not located in test pits to the south of the 'Turret'. The material overlying the wall appears to have been produced by the reclamation of the area from the lake and by the construction of a garden in the 19th century. No finds of pre-late 19th-century date were recovered. The 'Turret' proved to be a 19th-century red brick structure – hence its description as a 'Summer House' (O.S. 2nd ed.) This 'Summer House' was built on a small bridge that cut through the wall. The wall, judging by its position and extent and by early maps of Loughrea, would appear to have been built in the 16th or 17th century. At this time the lake level may have been dropping and was no longer providing a natural defence to this part of the town. All the early maps show that this area was uninhabited until the lake reclamation in the 19th century. This would explain the absence of finds contemporary with the wall.				

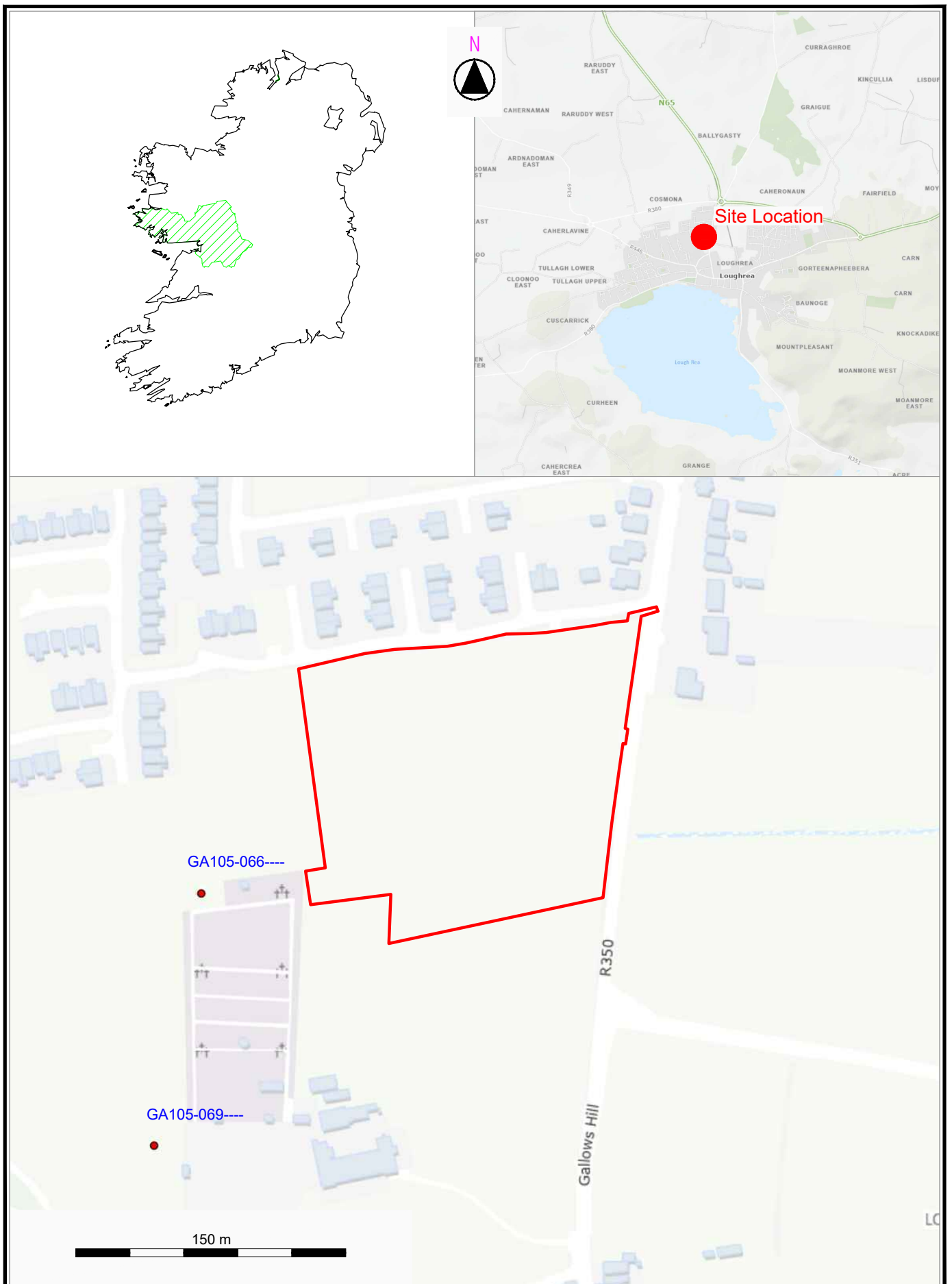
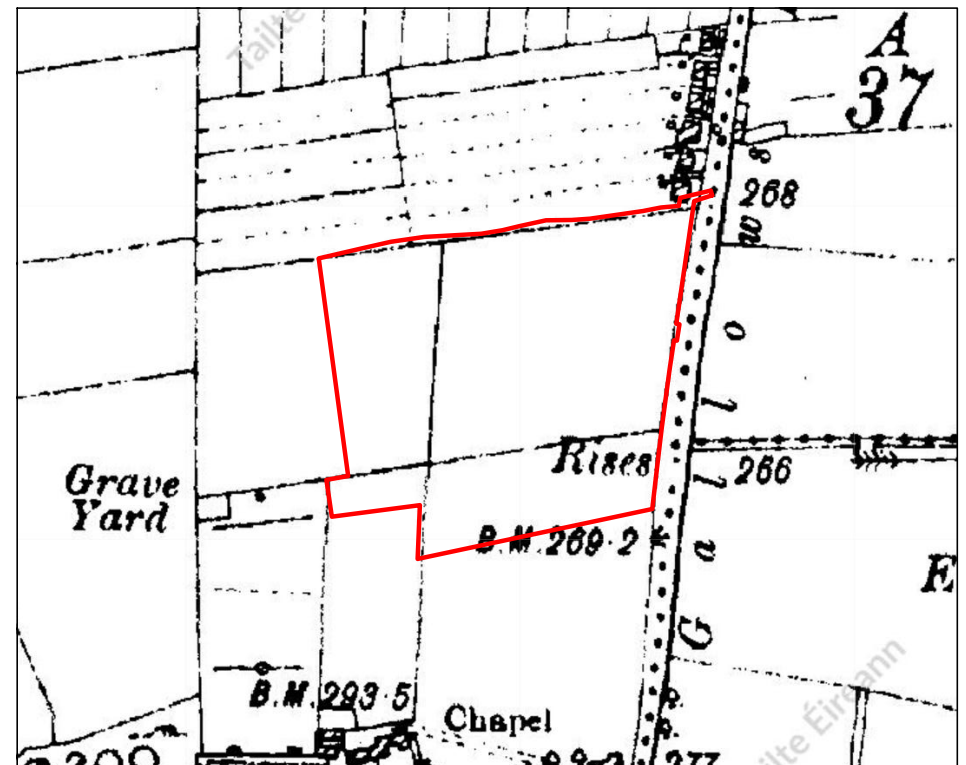
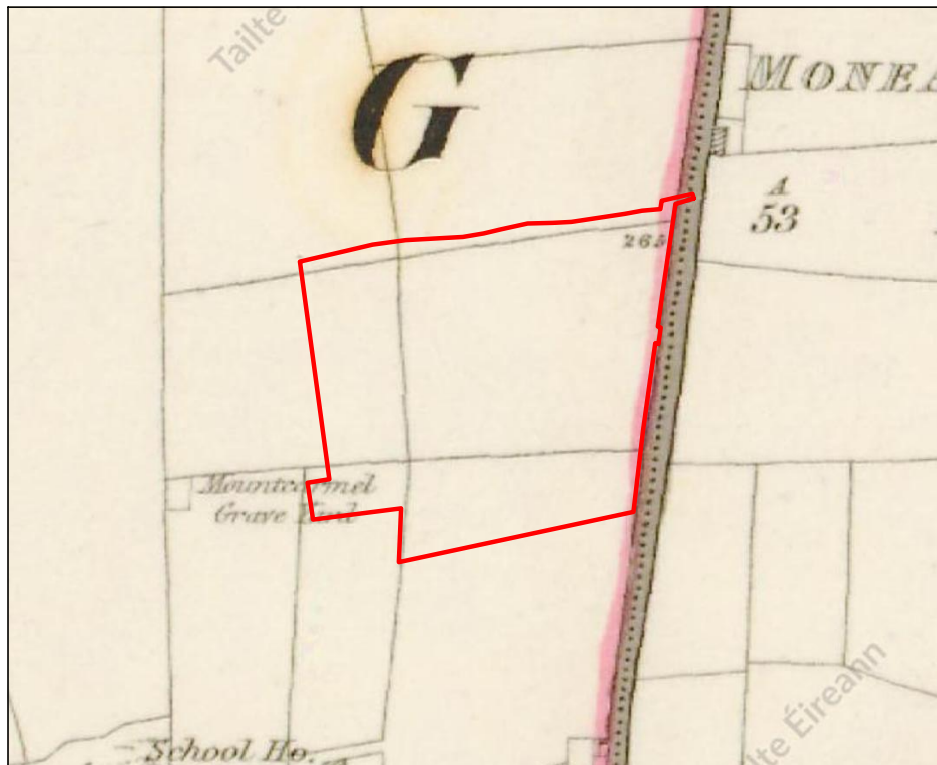


Figure 1: Location of site with surrounding RMPs

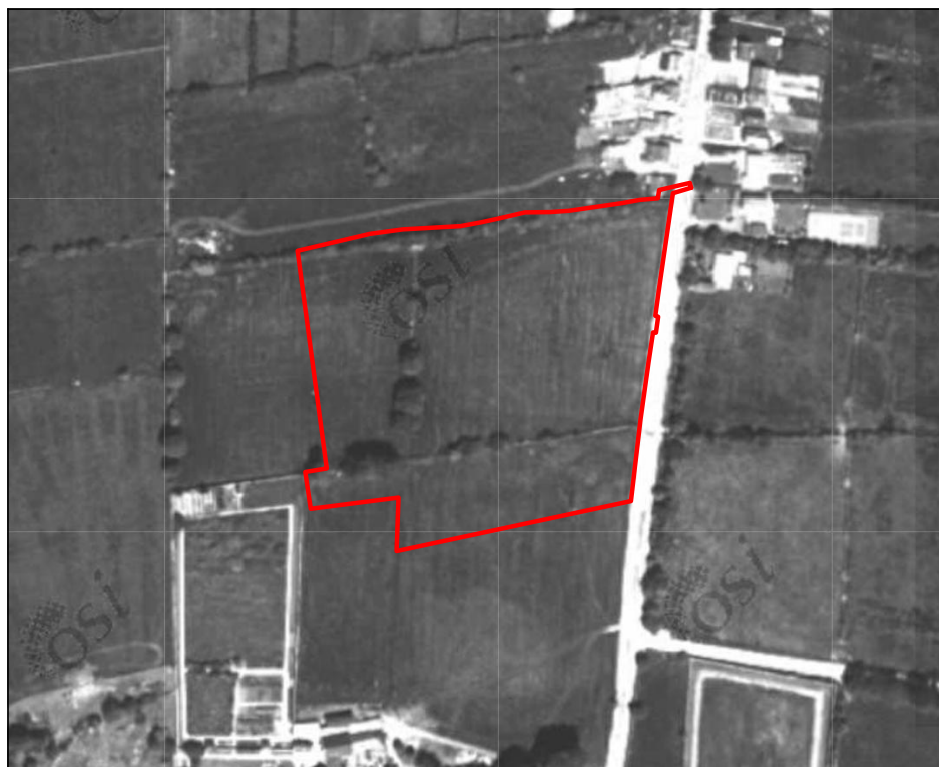




(l) 1st edition OSI - 1841

(r) Last edition OSU - 1915-20

Figure 3: Extracts from historical maps



(l) 1995

(r) 2013-18



1 Tenure Business
Park,
Tenure, Co. Louth
A92 K2VF

Cosmona, Loughrea, Co. Galway
Archaeological Impact Assessment

Scale:	Not to scale
Date:	August 2025
Origin:	NMS
Ref:	2025_26_AIA_04

Figure 4: Extracts from aerial photography



Scale: 1:1000 A4

Origin: Archer

Date: August 2025

Ref: 2025_26_AIA_05

Cosmona, Loughrea, Co. Galway

Figure 5: Greyscale plot of
geophysical anomalies

Archaeological
Impact
Assessment

50 m

Archer
Heritage Planning



Key:

- Site boundary
- Positive trend
- Modern/Ferrous



Plate 1: Trench 1, from SE



Plate 2: Trench 2, from SE



Plate 3: Trench 3, from SW



Plate 4: Trench 4 from NE



Plate 5: Trench 6; from NE



Plate 6: Trench 6 from NE



Plate 7: Trench 7, from SW



Plate 8: Trench 8, from NE