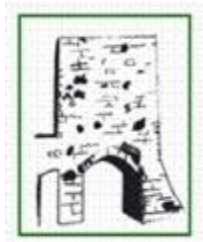


**ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
REPORT ON A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
AT CHURCH STREET,
LOUGHREA, CO. GALWAY**

PART 8 PLANNING APPLICATION

**FIONA ROONEY BA MIAI
JULY 2026**



Through Time Ltd.

*Professional Archaeological Services
Ballinderreen, Co. Galway
www.throughtimeltd.com*

**COPIES OF THIS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT
HAVE BEEN PRESENTED TO:**

Client: Galway County Council, Prospect Hill, Galway.

Statutory Bodies: National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local
Government and Heritage.
National Museum of Ireland.

PLEASE NOTE...

Any recommendations contained in this report are subject to the ratification of National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

COPYRIGHT NOTE

Please note that the entirety of this report, including any original drawings and photographs, remain the property of **THROUGH TIME LTD.** Any reproduction of the said report thus requires the written permission of **THROUGH TIME LTD.**

CONTENTS

I.	List of Figures Plates.....	4
II.	Abbreviations and Terms used in text.....	5
1.	Introduction.....	6
1.1	Site Location.....	6
1.2	Description of site.....	7
2.	Relevant Legislation.....	10
3.	Methodology.....	12
3.1	Desk Study.....	14
4.	Assessment of potential impacts.....	22
5.	Conclusions & Recommendations.....	22
6.	References	23
	Appendix 1 - Galway Development Plan 2022-2028.....	25

I. LIST OF FIGURES & PLATES

FIGURES

Fig. 1: Site location map, Táillte Éireann

Fig. 2: Site Location Map. Táillte Éireann

Fig. 3: Plan of layout of site boundary.

Fig. 4: Plan of the proposed development at Church St, Loughrea, Co. Galway.

Fig. 5: Aerial (2011-2013) indicating SMR and NIAH. Táillte Éireann.

Fig. 6: Extract of Cuddehy's Map of Loughrea 1791

Fig. 7: Extract of 1841 ed. OSi 6-inch map.

Fig. 8: Extract of last edition (1915) OSi 6-inch map.

PLATES

Plate 1: Aerial view of development site- cottage and overgrown back garden.

Plate 2: View of development site taken from the east.

II ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS USED IN TEXT

Barony, Parish, Townland *These terms refer to land divisions in Ireland. The barony is the largest land division in a county, which is formed from a number of parishes. These parishes are in turn made up of several townlands, which are the smallest land division in the country. The origins of these divisions are believed to be in the Early Medieval/Christian period (AD500-AD1000), or may date earlier in the Iron Age (500BC-AD500).*

First Edition *This relates to editions of the OS 6 inch maps for County Galway. The first edition map completed for the area dates to the early 1840s and this is referred to in the text as the 'first edition'.*

GA - *This number is the number of the site on the SMR map (see below). It begins with the county code, here GA for Galway, the 6-inch sheet number, followed by the number of the archaeological site.*

m *Metres, all dimensions are given in metres or part of a metre.*

OS *Ordnance Survey*

RMP *Record of Monuments and Places. A record on which all known archaeological sites are marked and listed in an accompanying inventory. This resource is based on all publicly available material and cartographic sources and is read in conjunction with constraint maps.*

Sheet *This relates to the 6 inch map (No.105) for County Galway which are divided into sheets.*

1. INTRODUCTION

This report is concerned with the Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of a proposed development at Church Street, Loughrea, Co. Galway. Galway County Council is seeking Part 8 planning approval to carry out the following works at Church Street, Loughrea, County Galway:

- The demolition and replacement of the existing derelict cottage with a new multi-purpose community facility.
- The construction of a replacement structure closely matching the footprint of the existing cottage, and of similar scale and proportion, to both secure and serve as a gateway to the community open space beyond.
- The proposed development will include new signage, an enclosed bin store, connection to existing services, hard and soft landscaping, and all associated site works.
- The following uses will be accommodated on the site: outdoor traders market, outdoor performances, and community events including ancillary uses to Loughrea Town Hall.

1.1 Site Location

Street: Church St **Townland:** Loughrea
Barony: Loughrea **RMP No:** Within GA105-150
ITM: 562077 716506

The site is located on the west side of Church Street in the south-east of Loughrea town and within the *zone of notification* of Recorded Monument (GA105:150----) Historic Town of Loughrea. It is situated to the SE of Church and Graveyard (GA105:150001-150009, NIAH Reg. No. 30337021) while Loughrea townhall (NIAH 30337027/RPS) is located to the immediate south.

1.2 Description of the cottage and site

7

It is a two-storey building with a centrally positioned single leaf door flanked by two windows at entrance level and three first floor windows. The cottage is without ornament and is of rudimentary composition. The external walls are of stone construction with traditional lime render still evident in areas. The windows to the street elevation retain their stone sills as does one window to the rear. A single storey lean-to structure of masonry construction is attached to the rear of the cottage. A single leaf door leads from the lean-to into an enclosed yard beyond where livestock would have been held.

The northern-most gable is constructed hard up against the neighbouring building. It's placement is unusual as it stands forward of the building line on the western side of Church Street by approximately one meter. The southern gable faces onto a narrow access way between the cottage and the historic town hall.

An ensemble of rubble and concrete lean-to structures were arranged in the yard however these have since collapsed.

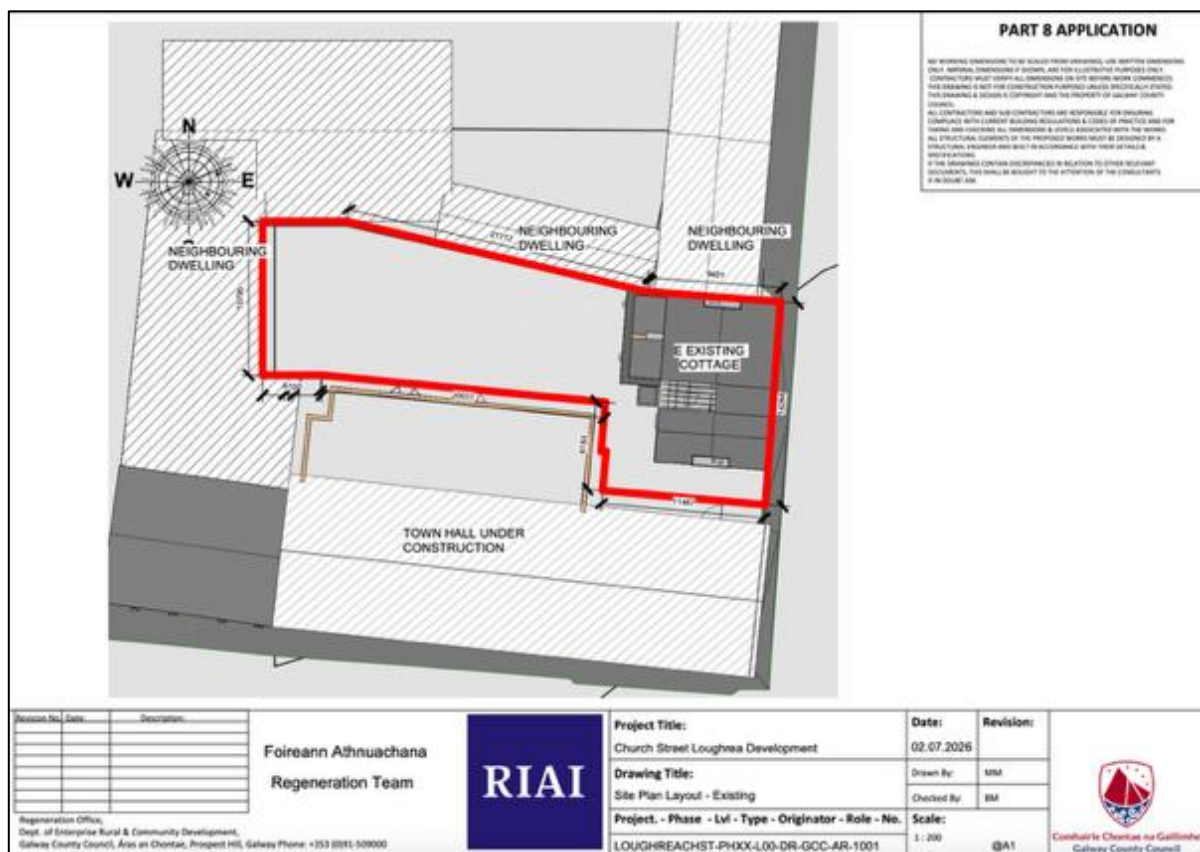


Fig. 3: Plan of layout of site boundary.

PART 8 APPLICATION			
<p>THE APPLICANT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS APPLICATION IS UNLIMITED. THE APPLICANT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS APPLICATION IS UNLIMITED. THE APPLICANT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS APPLICATION IS UNLIMITED.</p>			
Project Title:	Church Street Lighthouse Development	Date:	10.07.2020
Drawing Title:	Site Plan Layout	Drawn By:	MM
Project - Phase - Lot - Type - Originator - Role - No.:	1 - 100 - 100 - 100 - 100 - 100 - 100	Checked By:	MM
		Scale:	1:100
		Revision:	

Application No. _____ Date _____ Drawn By _____

Regeneration Office
Dept. of Enterprise, Rural & Community Development,
Enterprise Development Centre,
Rte. 1, Carragee,
Kesh, Co. Wick.
Phone: +353 (0)51 508500

Foireann Athnuachana
Regeneration Team

RIA

Project Title: Church Street Lighthouse Development
Drawing Title: Site Plan Layout
Project - Phase - Lot - Type - Originator - Role - No.: 1 - 100 - 100 - 100 - 100 - 100 - 100
Date: 10.07.2020
Drawn By: MM
Checked By: MM
Scale: 1:100

Comhairle Chionn na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

9

2. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

The study was informed by relevant legislation, guidelines, policy, and advice notes, as listed below.

- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999;
- Council of Europe (1985). Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (ratified by Ireland 1997), ‘Granada Convention’;
- Council of Europe (1992). European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (ratified by Ireland 1992), ‘Valletta Convention’;
- Council of Europe (2005). Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society, ‘Faro Convention’;
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (DAHGI) (1999). Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage;
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (2022). Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, May 2022;
- Heritage Act, 1995 (as amended);
- ICOMOS (2011). Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage ;
- National Monuments Act, 1930 to 2014;
- The Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023;
- Institute of Archaeologists (IAI) Good Practice Guidelines ¹(IAI, 2006)
- The Heritage Council (2013). Historic Landscape Characterisation in Ireland: Best Practice;
- The UNESCO World Heritage Convention, 1972;

Archaeological monuments are protected through national and international policy designed to secure the protection of the cultural heritage resource. This is facilitated in accordance with the provisions of the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention), which was ratified by Ireland in 1997.

The *Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023* (“the Act”) was enacted on 13th October 2023 and partially entered into force on the 31st of May 2024. Pending the commencement of the provisions of the Act which will repeal *the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014* and related legislation, those Acts and related legislation remain fully in force as they stood on 13th October 2023.

¹ <http://www.iai.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/IAI-Code-of-Conduct-for-Archaeological-Assessment-Excavation.pdf>

The National Monuments Act 1930 to 2004 and relevant provisions of the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997 are the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of archaeological remains, which includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. A National Monument is described as:

“a monument or the remains of 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 Act 1930 Section 2).

A number of mechanisms under the National Monuments Act are applied to secure the protection of archaeological monuments. These include the Register of Historic Monuments, the Record of Monuments and Places and the placing of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders on endangered sites.

The minister may acquire National Monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The State or the Local Authority may assume guardianship of any National Monument (other than dwellings). The owners of National Monuments may also appoint the Minister or the local Authority of that monument if the State or Local Authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the State, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

Section 5 of the 1987 Act requires the Minister to establish and maintain a Register of Historic Monuments. Historic monuments and archaeological areas present on the Register are afforded statutory protection under the 1987 Act. Any interference with sites recorded on the Register is illegal without the permission of the Minister. Two months notice in writing is required prior to any work being undertaken on or in the vicinity of a Registered Monument. The Register also includes sites under preservation orders and temporary preservation orders with the written consent, and at the discretion of the Minister.

Section 12 (1) of the 1994 Act requires the Minister to establish and maintain a Record of Monuments and Places where the Minister believes that such monuments exist. The Record comprises a list of monuments and relevant places and a map/s showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the state. All sites recorded on the Record of Monuments and Places receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1994. Section 12 (3) of the 1994 Act provides that:

“Where the owner or occupier (other than the Minister) of a monument or place included in the Record, or any other person, proposed to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such a monument or place, he or she shall give notice to the Minister to carry out work and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister, commence the works until two months after the giving of notice”.

The Architectural Heritage and Historic Properties Act 1999 and the Planning and Development Act of 2000 are the main built heritage legislation. The Architectural Heritage Act requires the Minister to establish a survey to identify, record and assess the architectural heritage of the country. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) records all built heritage structures within specific counties in Ireland. The document is used to advise local Authorities on the register of a Record of Protected Structures (RPS) as required by the Planning and Development Act, 2000. The Act of 2000 requires Local Authorities to establish a Record of Protected Structures to be included in the County Development Plan (CDP). Buildings recorded in the RPS can include Recorded Monuments, structures listed in the NIAH or buildings deemed to be of architectural, archaeological or artistic importance by the Minister. Once listed in the RPS the sites/areas receive statutory protection from injury or demolition under the 2000 Act. Damage to or demolition of a site registered in the RPS is an offence. The detail of the list varies from County to County. If the Local Authority considers a building to be in need of a repair it can order conservation and/or restoration works. The owner or developer must make a written application/request to the local authority to carry out any works on a protected structure and its environs.

Where a National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) survey has been carried out, those structures which have been attributed a rating value of international, national or regional importance in the inventory are recommended by the Minister of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to the relevant planning authority for inclusion on the RPS. In accordance with Section 53 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, if a planning authority, after considering a recommendation made to it under this section, decides not to comply with the recommendation, it shall inform the Minister in writing of the reason for its decision.

Galway County Council Development Plan 2022-2028

Galway County Council has written policies on the preservation of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage remains in relation to permitted development. These relate to archaeological features and objects, built structures, views and scenic routes.

3. METHODOLOGY

The study was divided into three main components:

1. Desk-based assessment, including gathering and analysing baseline data;
2. A site inspection of the development in relation to known cultural heritage assets and any previously unidentified assets that may be impacted; and
3. Report writing.

Archaeological and historical documents including the following were examined to establish the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage potential of the proposed development: The methodology involved a desk-based survey of the following archaeological, historical and cartographic sources:

- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) – the statutory list of protected places and monuments, with accompanying constraints maps, published for County Galway.
- Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) – the archive of current information on sites and monuments, including whether or not sites are to be included on the next RMP revision; available online at <http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment>.
- Lists of National Monuments in State Care: Ownership and Guardianship, published for County Galway.
- The list of Preservation Orders held by the National Monuments Service (published 2010);
- Excavations Bulletins (www.excavations.ie) Published account of archaeological excavations and findings from the area.
- Cartographic sources, including the first-edition six-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map, the 25-inch OS map along with other available maps.
- Historical photographs viewed online via the National Library of Ireland website (<http://www.nli.ie/digital-photographs.aspx>); LiDAR and Aerial photography (Google Earth, and Digital Globe via the Historic Environment Viewer).

Architectural Heritage

Record of Protected Structures (RPS); and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH).

Site Inspection

The site was visited in July 2026 however the building and back garden was not accessed for safety reasons.



Plate 2: View of cottage taken from the east, July 2026

3.1 Desk Based Survey

Archaeological and Historical Background

The placename Loughrea is derived from the Irish *Baile Loch Ríac* or *Lough Rea* meaning 'the town of the Gray Lake'. O'Donovan states that the Dinnseanchur (Book of Lecan, folio 241, bb) records that the lake was named from Riach, one of the four kings of Maenmach who was drowned in it. The lake itself was a focal point for settlement, with thirteen crannogs recorded in the lake with a noted concentration along the northern shore.

The Anglo-Norman Lord of Connaught, Richard de Burgo, was granted the province of Connacht in the early-thirteenth century. The region had previously been granted to his father William in 1195 however it wasn't until 1235 that it was eventually taken by Richard de Burgo. Loughrea was chosen as the principal manor of the territory and de Burgos' castle was built there in 1236. Further castles were built in surrounding areas including Ardahan, Galway, Athenry and Kilcolgan with some being held by de Burgo himself and others, such as Athenry and Ardahan, being held by his principal tenants.

Loughrea town was located centrally within the Anglo-Norman Cantred (later to become the Barony) of Loughrea, which was corresponded to the early medieval Gaelic kingdom of

Máenmag, a sub-kingdom of Uí Maine. Loughrea was one of Richard de Burgh's principal demesne cantreds and Loughrea town the chief borough, or *Caput Baroniae*, of the lordship of Connacht. Indeed, Loughrea's status is confirmed in the *Inquisition Post Mortem* of 1333 (hereafter IPM) where all holdings in Connacht, including entire cantreds, were called parcels of de Burgh's manor of Loughrea.

A letter dating to 1574 describes the town as 'well-ditched and trenched, with walls fair begun but not finished, having three strong fair gates make like three castles'. Inside the walls was built-up with houses of stone work, which were partly destroyed and ruinous by the end of the sixteenth century. By the 1550's the borough of Loughrea was in ruin and both the town and castle had declined in importance.

In the 19th century Lewis Topographical Guide describes Loughrea as a flourishing town with 1,299 houses and 7,876 inhabitants. A large brewery and extensive quarries were also named as existing within the town. In 1893 a parliamentary report into the condition of agricultural labourers in Loughrea union was undertaken by Roger Rischards. Richard's description of living conditions within the town indicates that accommodation in Loughrea was in a very poor state with the majority built of stone and mud, which were thatched. Numerous houses dating to the 18th century are recorded in the town and the town hall (NIAH30337027 RPS315) is located to the immediate south.



Fig. 5: Aerial (2011-2013) indicating SMR and NIAH. Táillte Éireann

The development site is located in the historic town of Loughrea GA105-150 and 40m south-west of Church (GA105-150008-) and Graveyard (GA105-150009-) (Fig. 5). The medieval church stood on the grounds of the Church of Ireland parish church, now the public library. Although nothing survives of the medieval church there are a number of references in the papal documents. The medieval church was located within a rectangular churchyard. Two medieval grave-slabs (GA105-1500012-/17-) and two window fragments (GA105-1500011-) are all that survive of the original building. The present church was built in 1821 and is now in use as a library.

The following is a description of the references to the medieval church from *Loughrea A medieval Town Past and Present* (2020); Loughrea appears in the Papal Taxation of 1302-08 where the goods of the rectory are valued at £37. 0s. 0d., returning a tithe of 49s. 4d., while the vicarage is valued at £6. 0s. 0d., returning a tithe of 8s. 0d. The available papal documents record some of the clergy and laymen associated with Loughrea parish church. One of the earliest entries dated June 1335 notes a 'grant to Thomas de Crosse, kings clerk, of the prebendal church of Loughrea in the cathedral church of Clonfert, in the kings gift by reason of his custody of the lands and heir of William de Burgo, earl of Ulster tenant in chief by king'. A second entry on this matter, dated May 1336 notes the 'revocation of the late collation by letters patent under the great seal of Thomas Crosse, kings clerk, to the prebendal church of Loghrehgh [Loughrea], in the church of Clonfert, in the king's gift by reason of his custody of the lands and heir of William de Burgo, earl of Ulster, tenant in chief, as the king had already, by letters patent under the seal of Ireland, granted the church to Robert de Emeldon, kings clerk'. A further papal bull, dated December 15, 1415, confirms that a Hubert De Burgh had held the rectory of Loughrea for more than a month without papal permission. A papal letter for January 1418, appoints Edmond De Burgh as a canon of Clonfert and the rector of Loughrea, its value not exceeding 30 marks. Similarly, one for November 6, 1421 appoints David Ochalanayn as the vicar of Loughrea. This position was caused by the death of his predecessor Dermit Omurcuayn. Hubert De Burgh became the rector of Loughrea in 1423. In 1443 Roderick Ohegayd a priest of the diocese was removed as vicar of Loughrea due to having held it for five years without permission, and William Omuregrayd was appointed as the vicar instead. In 1465 Donatus Ochanyyn, the archdeacon of Clonfert, informed the pope that Edmund De Burgh (a canon of Tuam) openly kept concubines and dilapidated the goods of the prebendary of Kilmeen and the rectory of the parish church of Loughrea. In 1459 Thady O'Hanrahan, an Augustinian Canon of Lorrha, Co. Tipperary informed the pope that Malachy O'Horan, the vicar of the parish church of Loughrea, had become a paralytic, and so was unable to administer the sacraments properly to the parishioners, and that he had also committed simony and dilapidated the goods of the vicarage, to the point that the parishioners chose to attend other churches or monasteries in order to receive the sacraments and hear

divine offices. The upshot of this was that if it were found to be true, Malachy was to be removed and Thady appointed as vicar in his place. As Loughrea was a vicarage of the Abbey of St Mary de Portu Puro Clonfert the pope ordered that Thady be transferred from the monastery of Fontis Vivi, Lorrha to the monastery of Portu Puro, Clonfert. Loughrea was valued at 8 marks sterling at that time. A letter of 1448 to the pope from Matthew Macraith, bishop of Clonfert, sought to have the vicarage of Loughrea reunited to the monastery of Portu Puro, 'its former union thereto having dissolved by authority of the ordinary'. He planned to repair the monastery and create an episcopal residence for himself there. A further bull of 1489 appointed David De Burgh as rector of Loughrea following the death of his namesake, John De Burgh, who formerly held it, though having been deprived of it by papal authority. William O'Dempsey held the vicarage without consent in 1493 and was deprived and the position was given to Edmund De Burgh, a cleric of Clonfert. These entries in the papal registres, though fragmented, provide a critical insight into the various appointments to Loughrea.

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage & Record of Protected Structures

The townhall (NIAH30337027 RPS315) is located to the immediate south of the development site (Fig. 5). The NIAH records that it was built c.1860 and describes it as follows

'The building's classical style marks it out in the town, the shallow pitched roof and rectangular plan echoing a classical temple, and the distinctive oculus window and pedimented gable also being classical motifs. The main elevation is given a sense of monumentalism and rhythm through the arcaded ground floor with square-headed openings in robust limestone walling. The masonry shows evidence of skilled craftsmanship. Its siting, at a junction of streets, makes it a landmark at the south side of the town.'

Saint Brendan's Church of Ireland (NIAH 30337021, RPS 320) is located 40m to the north-east of the development site and described as 'A former Gothic Revival church, attributed to architect James Pain, which acts as a natural focal point and eye catcher for this part of the town. It has retained its original ecclesiastical character to the exterior and much to the interior, notwithstanding its change of use. It is enhanced by the finely carved masonry detailing, the finials to the gables being somewhat unusual. Historical interest is afforded by the plaques and bench mark.'

A number of houses in the vicinity of the development site are listed in the NIAH and include the 20th century AIB building (NIAH 30337020, RS1270) and a house (NIAH 30337041, RPS 316) built between 1780-1800 (Fig. 5). The Record of Protected Structures in the County

Galway Development plan list Beatty's House (RPS 1285) 5 bay, 3 storey mid 18th century house with high pitched roof located to the north of the development site.

Cartographic Sources & Aerial Photographs

Examination of the historic mapping indicates little change in the layout of the streets in the town centre. The earliest record map of Loughrea town is Cuddehy's map dating to 1791 *Survey of the Town and Parks of Loughrea*, and it shows buildings along Church Lane (Fig. 6). Each plot is numbered and indicates the name of the occupier and the extent of the property (frontage, the depth and the area of the allotment). The development site is marked as No. 87 on Cuddehy's map and documents that Mr. William Kelly lived here. A building is marked along the street. Examination of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland historic mapping (Figs. 7 & 8) indicates a slight changes in the buildings to the rear of the site however the building along the street frontage remains the same.



Fig. 6: Extract of Clanrickarde's Map of Loughrea 1791.



Fig. 7: Extract of 1841 ed. OSi 6-inch map.

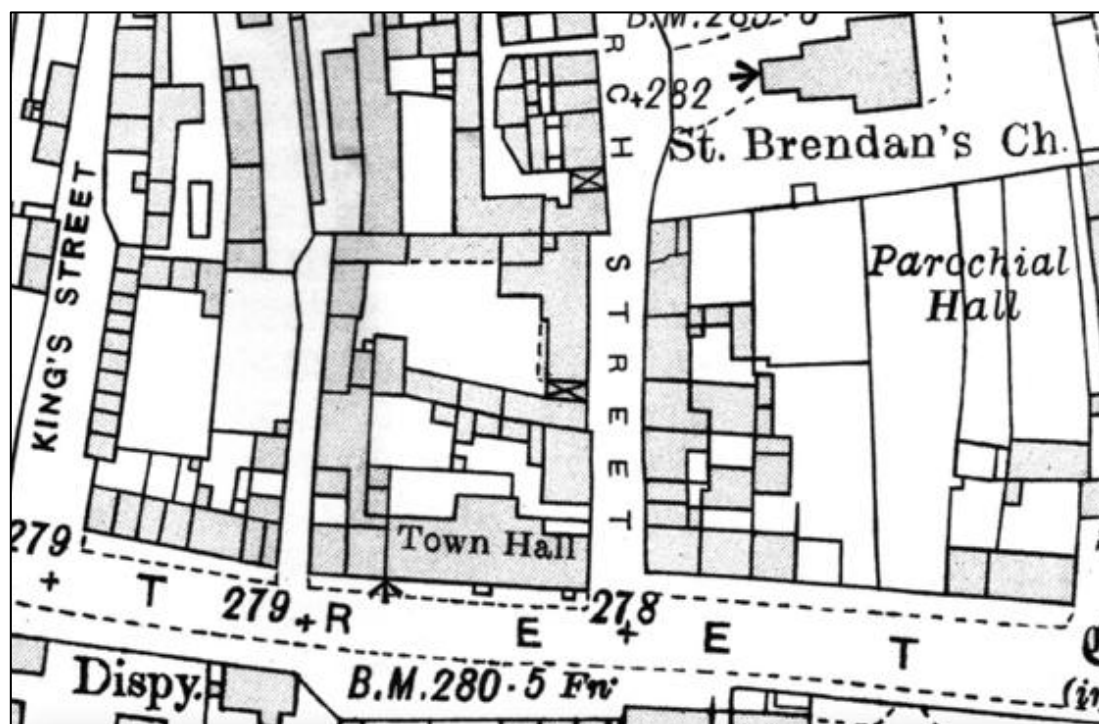


Fig. 8: Extract of last edition (1915) OSi 6-inch map.

Previous excavations

A search through the archive of archaeological excavations (excavations.ie) found no records for previous archaeological work undertaken at the site however numerous excavations have been carried out along Church Street.

1998-257 Licence 98E0552 –

Dave Pollack

Archaeological monitoring on Church street was undertaken by Dave Pollock, in 1998 at a development site to the north of the proposed development and recorded no features and/or finds of archaeological significance. The stratigraphy encountered was indicative of modern use of this site.

2024-762 License 23E0496 –

Zbigniew Malek/AMS

In 2023-24 archaeological monitoring of excavations by Uisce Éireann recorded the following; One burial (Church Street), disarticulated human remains (Church Street and Piggot's Street), a pit (Moore Street/Barrack Street junction) and animal bone (Church Street and Piggot's Street) were found during the monitoring of the Loughrea Combined Schemes. Other cultural heritage features comprising a stone wall foundation of the Constabulary Barracks (Castle Street), a possible wall foundation (Piggot's Street), stone culverts (Church Street, Dolphin Street, Mount Carmel Crescent and Athenry Road), a stone bank representing a townland or field boundary (Mount Carmel Crescent) were also revealed during the monitoring.

2017:544 Licence 17E0535

Anne Carey

Pre-development testing was carried out on the site of a proposed office development at Piggot's Street, Loughrea. Two trenches were excavated to natural. There were no finds of archaeological interest during the works. The report recommended archaeological monitoring of groundworks.

2021:479 Licence 21E0786

Fiona Rooney

Situated on the west side of Piggot's Street in the south-east of Loughrea town. The archaeological monitoring of three test trenches revealed the following: Trench A, which was located adjacent to the west boundary wall of the site, removal of a concrete layer and black/grey silty clay (depth 0.25m), revealed a deposit of black clay for a depth of 0.45m which overlay the natural orange brown gritty clay. In Trenches B and C was found a stone fill and gravel for a depth of 0.5-1m; this overlay the orange brown gritty clay for the most part of the site. The base of a wall foundation was revealed in the north-west of the site, and corresponds with the north gable wall of the former building. A black deposit was recorded below the stone fill in Trenches B and C and excavation for a max. depth of 0.4m revealed inclusions of early 20th-century pottery and glass, with occasional oyster shells. This black layer overlay the

natural orange brown gritty clay. No features and or finds of archaeological significance were encountered in the course of the excavations.

24E0570 – Piggotts street, Loughrea by Fiona Rooney

Archaeological monitoring of the excavations at Piggott's Street was carried out over the period of 2 days under the licence (24E0570) from the National Monuments Service. This involved of the mechanical excavation of fill material and natural sandy clays. The stone threshold of an earlier building was recorded at a depth of 0.5m in the N of the site and may be the building marked on the historic OSi last edition 6-inch map. The stratigraphy encountered throughout the rest of the site was comprised of fill (depth 0.9-1m) overlying the natural sandy clay. No features and/or finds of archaeological significance were encountered during the course of the monitoring of the site excavations.

Topographical Files of The National Museum of Ireland

This is the archive of all known finds recorded by the National Museum. The archive primarily relates to artefacts but also includes references to monuments and previous excavations. The find spots of artefacts are important contributors to the knowledge of the archaeological landscape. Location information relating to finds is an important indicator of human activity. The following is a list of stray finds from Loughrea.

List of archaeological stray finds:

- Flat bronze axehead of Ballyvalley type. From Loughrea.
- Flanged bronze axehead of Derryniggin type. From Loughrea. Blackmore Museum, Salisbury.
- Flanged bronze axehead. Found in Lough Rea, 1850. NMI 1968:298
- Bronze palstave. From Loughrea. NMI 1968:329.
- Bronze ring brooch. From Loughrea. BM 1868. 7-9.29
- Fragment of a stone cross with the crucifixion carved in relief. Found in the river bed at Loughrea.

4. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Impacts can be assessed based on the detailed information on the project, the nature of the area affected and the range of resources potentially affected. Developments can potentially affect the architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage landscape in a number of ways, as follows.

Direct Impacts:

Archaeological sites can be adversely affected by excavation for development, excavations for service trenches and by the effects of heavy machinery passing over features of archaeological significance.

Landscaping, mounding and general excavations associated with construction may result in the loss or damage of archaeological remains or physical loss to the setting of historic landscapes and to the physical coherence of the landscape.

Landscaping associated with developments can damage or destroy sub-surface archaeological features. Root action of trees for example can adversely impact on archaeological layers.

Indirect Impacts

Indirect effects are where a feature or site of archaeological, architectural heritage merit or their setting is located in close proximity to a proposed development. Indirect impacts here are mainly concerned with impacts on setting.

Impacts on setting arise when a development is proposed adjacent to a recorded monument or cluster of monuments. While the proposed development may not physically impact on the site, it may alter the setting of a monument or group of monuments. For purposes of assessing visual impact on setting, the uniqueness of the monument, the potential interrelationship of monuments, the inter-visibility of monuments, visual dominance and whether a setting is altered or unaltered can be used to assess impact.

The proposed development will involve the demolition of the existing buildings and clearance to the site to allow for drainage, foundations for the new build, footpaths and surfaces. The site is located in the historic town of Loughrea (SMR GA105-150). There are no structures in the NIAH/RPS within the development site. The development will have no direct/indirect impact on any above ground recorded monuments and/or structures in the NIAH/RPS.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The site at Church Street is located in the historic town of Loughrea (SMR GA105-150) and there is a high possibility of features been revealed dating from medieval, postmedieval and more recent times. The development site is located 40m south-west of the medieval church and graveyard (GA105-150009) and excavations in 2023-2024 along Church St. revealed human remains and culverts. The cartographic evidence indicates that there has been little change in the layout of the street since the late 18th century through to modern times.

It is recommended that following the removal of demolition material from the site that a programme of archaeological test trenching be carried out under licence from the NMS, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. A metal detection survey (under licence) is also recommended during the testing, to aid in the recording of archaeology at the site. In the event of archaeological features and/or finds been revealed, the area is to be manually clean back and recorded, the results submitted to the National monuments Service and Galway County Council.

It is recommended that all excavations associated with the development be monitored under licence.

6. REFERENCES

Primary Sources

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)
Constraint maps and Catalogue
Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)
SMR archival files in National Monuments Service
Topographical Files in National Museum of Ireland
Finds Registers in National Museum of Ireland
Ordnance Survey 1st Ed. 6" Map
Ordnance Survey 2nd Ed. 6" Map
Ordnance Survey Revised Ed. 6" Map
Excavations.ie
Galway Development Plan.

Author unknown. The Annals of the Four Masters.:

Alcock, O. 1999. Archaeological inventory of County Galway, Part 2 North Galway. Dublin.

Bradley, J. 1985 Planned Anglo-Norman Towns in Ireland. In H.B. Clarke and A. Simms (eds), *The Comparative History of Urban Origins in Non-Roman Europe*. BAR Series, II, 411-67. Oxford.

Bradley, J. 1995 Walled Towns in Ireland. Dublin.

Bradley, J. and Dunne, N. 1990 Urban Archaeological Survey, Part XIX, County Galway. O.P.W.

Egan, P. *The Town of Loughrea in 1791* *Journal of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society*, Vol. 24, No. 3/4 (1951), pp. 95-110 (16 pages)

Galway County Development Plan.

Harbison, P. 1988. *Pre-Christian Ireland: from the first settlers to the early Celts*. London.

Harbison, P. 1975 *Guide to the National Monuments of Ireland*. Dublin.

Hardiman, J. 1820 *The History of the Town and County of Galway, from the earliest period to the present time, embellished with several engravings*. Dublin.

Joyce, P.W., 1990. *Irish Local Names Explained*. London.

Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V. 1962. *Shell Guide to Ireland*. London.

Knox, H.T. 1900-1901 *The De Burgo Clans of Galway*. JGAHS I, 124-131. Knox, H.T. 1901 *Occupation of the County of Galway by the Anglo-Normans after A.D. 1237*. JRSAI 31, 365-370. Knox, H.T. 1902 *Occupation of Connaught by the Anglo-Normans after A.D. 1237*.

JRSAI 32, parts i and ii, 132-138/ 393-406. Knox, H.T. 1903 *Occupation of Connaught by the Anglo-Normans after A.D. 1237*.

JRSAI 33, parts iii, iv and v, 58-74/ 179-189/ 284-294.

Lewis, S. 1837. *A topographical dictionary of Ireland*, 2 vols. London.

Literary, Historical and Place-name Sources, PRIA 85 C 37-60.

Loughrea History Project 2003 *'The District of Loughrea Vol.1 & Vol. 2*. Galway.

O'Donovan, J. 1838 *The Ordnance Survey Letters, Co. Galway*. vol I. Dublin.

Spellissy, S. 1999 *The History of Galway city and county*. Shannon

Taylor, G. and Skinner, A. 1778. *Maps of the Roads of Ireland*. Dublin.

Waddell, J. 1998. *The prehistoric archaeology of Ireland*. Galway.

Otway-Ruthven, A. J., 1968 *A History of Medieval Ireland*. London.

Reeves-Smyth, T. 1997 *Atlas of the Rural Irish landscape*.

Simmington, R. C. 1970 *The Transplantation of Connaught, 1654-58*.

APPENDIX 1: GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

12.5 Architectural Heritage Context

Architectural heritage relates to monuments, groups of buildings and sites, and includes all relevant man-made structures and features of the landscape in the county; such as houses, bridges, towns, demesnes and stone walls of considered architectural heritage value.

Local authorities, through their city and county development plans and designation through the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs), enable places of architectural value to be protected. Good heritage management should be incorporated into spatial planning to promote the benefits of heritage led urban regeneration in historic towns, for example through the protection of historic urban fabric, the reuse of historic buildings and the enhancement of places of special cultural or natural interest.

12.5.1 Protected Structures

A Record of Protected Structures is the record included in a Development Plan, correct at the time of publication. It may be amended by the addition or deletion of entries independently of the Development Plan review process. The inclusion of a structure in the RPS does not preclude appropriate use or development. Protection is defined as including, in relation to a structure, or part of a structure, conservation, preservation and improvement compatible with maintaining the character and interest of the structure. Protection is offered to:

- a) The interior of the structure;
- b) The land lying within the curtilage of the structure;
- c) Any other structures lying within that curtilage and their interiors, and all fixtures and features which form part of the interior or exterior of any structure.

No works, which would adversely affect the character of the structure, or any element of it, which contributes to its special interest, may be carried out to a protected structure without planning permission. An owner or occupier of a protected structure may make a written request to the Planning Authority to issue a Section 57 Declaration as to the type of works, which it considers would or would not materially affect the character of the structure or any element of the structure that contributes to its special interest.

The purpose of the designation of protected structure status is to ensure that any changes or alterations to the building and/or its setting are carried out in such a way that the existing special character is retained and enhanced. The identification of structures for inclusion in the Record is based on criteria set out in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011). See Appendix 6 Record of Protected Structures.

12.5.2 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Survey of County Galway

The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate a representative sample of the post 1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, as an aid in the protection and conservation of the architectural heritage of County Galway. The survey explores the social and historical context of the structures and facilitates a greater appreciation of the architectural heritage of County Galway. The NIAH provides the basis for the recommendations of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to the planning authority for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures. It is important to recognise the contribution that all historic structures, features and landscapes including those which are not included in the Record of Protected Structures, makes to the county's heritage. The Council will seek the enhancement of these elements in recognition of their quality, character and local distinctiveness.

12.5.3 Architectural Conservation Areas

An Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) is a place, area, group of structures or townscape, which is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or contributes to the appreciation of a protected structure. An Architectural Conservation Area may or may not include protected structures. In an ACA, protection is placed on the external appearance of such areas or structures. Planning permission must be obtained before significant works can be carried out to the exterior of a structure within an ACA, which might alter the character of the structure, or of the ACA.

ACA's can be entire streetscapes, designed landscape associated with a country house, medieval towns, industrial complexes, designed open spaces, religious complexes and so forth. The special character of an ACA is made up of its architectural features, setting, spatial qualities and land uses.

The designation of ACAs gives protection to the greater part of the built heritage that may not be suitable for inclusion in the RPS but contributes to or forms the particular character of an area.

Recognition is given to the value of high-quality infill buildings and shopfronts, both historic and contemporary, in attracting visitors and local people alike to a vibrant town and village centre.

12.5.4 Vernacular Architecture

Vernacular architecture refers to the traditional building forms and types built using local materials, skills and building techniques which form a vital component of the landscape. Vernacular buildings, through their siting, orientation and materials, display an intimate connection with their landscape. This includes traditional domestic buildings such as thatched cottages but could also include other traditional structures such as shopfronts, farmsteads,

outbuildings, aspects of the industrial past, including lime kilns, mills, forges, and their products, such as gates. These structures reflect the unique local history and character of a place. Viable new uses and careful rehabilitation can contribute to sustainable development and encourage social and economic regeneration.

12.5.5 Placemaking

Placemaking relates to the interrelationship and connection between people and the spaces they use. It includes how people move around places, the buildings and structures as well as the open space and landscape of an area and place. It therefore requires a people-centred approach to the planning, design and management of our settlements and the built environment. It promotes balancing the conservation of the historic fabric with the needs of those who live in and use the historic settlement.

Ensuring high quality design adds value to our towns, villages and countryside and improves placemaking and our quality of life.

12.5.6 Energy Efficiency and Traditionally Built Structures

The careful rehabilitation and retention of historic buildings in our landscapes, whether urban or rural, allows the materials and embedded energy of these structures to be harnessed for present and future generations.

Proposals to improve the thermal performance of historic buildings and to insert renewable energy technologies need to be sensitive to traditional methods of construction to ensure that the proposed works are compatible with the traditionally accepted method of allowing for moisture to be absorbed and released easily. Ventilating the internal spaces performs the important function of allowing the building to breath. Interventions such as impermeable building products may have unintended harmful consequences for historic traditional buildings.

12.5.7 Designed Landscapes

Historic designed landscapes are gardens, parks or estates that were deliberately laid out to create a particular effect. By using features, such as follies to form vistas, altering river courses to form lakes, building walled gardens to create sheltered areas, an architectural and horticultural composition is created. The designed landscapes of Galway consist primarily of demesnes associated with large country houses and are often the setting for a protected structure.

The Council will promote awareness of the value of designed landscapes and associated features and promoting standards in relation to repair and conservation is important. Development proposals in these designed landscapes shall be accompanied by appraisals

and surveying of these sensitive sites including historic gardens, demesnes, estates and their settings so as to evaluate any possible impact on the heritage value.

12.5.8 Industrial, Agricultural and Coastal Heritage

The industrial heritage of mills and canals rail lines, the road network and associated bridges are historic assets that have had a significant influence on the form and character of the County and can be adapted to meet modern needs. Buildings associated with agricultural practise are easily identifiable within our settlements. Piers and harbours on the coast and rivers are evidence of a busy maritime culture.

Policy and Objectives

AH 1 Architectural Heritage

Ensure the protection of the architectural heritage of County Galway which is a unique and special resource, having regard to the policy guidance contained in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011 (and any updated/superseding document).

AH 2 Protected Structures

- (a) Ensure the protection and sympathetic enhancement of structures including their curtilage and attendant grounds included and proposed for inclusion in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest, together with the integrity of their character and setting.
- (b) Review the Record of Protected Structures in order to provide a comprehensive schedule for the protection of structures of special importance in the County during the lifetime of the plan.
- (c) Ensure that development proposals are appropriate in terms of architectural treatment, character, scale and form to the existing protected structure and not detrimental to the special character and integrity of the protected structure and its setting.
- (d) Ensure high-quality architectural design of all new developments relating to or which may impact on structures (and their settings) included in the Record of Protected Structures.
- (e) Promote and ensure best conservation practice through the use of specialist conservation professionals and craft persons.
- (f) Prohibit development proposals, either in whole or in part, for the demolition of protected structures, save in exceptional circumstances.

AH 3 Protection of Structure on the NIAH

Give regard to and consideration of all structures which are included in the NIAH for County Galway, which are not currently included in the Record of Protected Structures, in development management functions.

AH 4 Architectural Conservation Areas

Protect, conserve and enhance the special character of the Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) included in this plan through the appropriate management and control of the design, location and layout of new development, modifications, alterations or extensions to existing structures, surviving historic plots and street patterns and/or modifications to the character or setting of the Architectural Conservation Area. Works within the ACA shall ensure the conservation of traditional features and building elements that contribute to the character of the area. The special character of an area includes its traditional building stock and material finishes, spaces, streetscape, shop fronts, landscape and setting. New proposals shall have appropriate regard to scale, plot, form, mass, design, materials, colours and function.

This will be achieved by;

- (a) Protecting all buildings, structures, groups of structures, sites, landscapes and all features which contribute to the special character of the ACA from demolition and non-sympathetic alterations.
- (b) Promote appropriate and sensitive reuse and rehabilitation of buildings and sites within the ACA.
- (c) Ensure new development within or adjacent to an ACA respects the established character of the area and contributes positively in terms of design, scale, setting and material finishes to the ACA.
- (d) Promote high-quality architectural design within ACAs.
- (e) Seek the repair and reuse of traditional shopfronts and where appropriate, encourage new shopfronts of a high-quality architectural design.
- (f) Ensure that all new signage, lighting, advertising and utilities to buildings within ACA are designed, constructed, and located in such a manner that they do not detract from the character of the ACA.
- (g) Protect and enhance the quality of open spaces within ACAs and ensure the protection and where necessary reuse of street furniture and use of appropriate materials during the course of public infrastructure schemes within ACAs.
- (h) Prohibit development proposals, either in whole or in part for the demolition of a structure within an Architectural Conservation Area that contributes to the special character of the area.
- (i) Protect structures in ACAs from non-sympathetic alterations and encourage appropriate infill developments.
- (j) Works materially affecting the character of a protected structure or the exterior of a building/structure within an ACA will require planning permission;
- (k) Any works carried out to a protected structure or the exterior of a building/structure within an ACA shall be in accordance with best conservation practice and use sustainable and appropriate materials.

(l) Ensure that any development, modifications, alterations, or extensions materially affecting the character of a protected structure, or a structure adjoining a protected structure, or a structure within or adjacent to an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA), is sited and designed appropriately and is not detrimental to the character or setting of the protected structure or of the ACA.

AH 5 Maintenance and Re-use of existing Building Stock

Promote the maintenance and appropriate re-use of the existing stock of buildings with architectural merit as a more sustainable option to their demolition and redevelopment.

AH 6 Vernacular Architecture

Recognise the importance of the contribution of vernacular architecture to the character of a place and ensure the protection, retention and appropriate revitalisation and reuse of the vernacular built heritage including structures that contribute to landscape and townscape character and resist the demolition of these structures.

AH 7 Local Place Names

Protect local place names as an important part of the cultural heritage and unique character of an area. Support the use of appropriate names for new developments that reflect the character and heritage of the area and that contribute to the local distinctiveness of a place.

AH 8 Energy Efficiency and Traditionally Built Structures

Ensure that measures to upgrade the energy efficiency of protected structures and traditionally built historic structures are sensitive to traditional construction methods, employ best practice and use appropriate materials and methods that will not have a detrimental impact on the material, functioning or character of the building.

AH 9 Local Landscape and Place Assessment

To support proposals from local communities including Tidy Town Committees, Chambers of Commerce and residents' groups in analysing the character of their place and promoting its regeneration for their own use and enjoyment and that of visitors to the area.

AH 10 Designed Landscapes

Protect the surviving historic designed landscapes in the County and promote the conservation of their essential character, both built and natural. Consider protection of the designed landscape by inclusion in an Architectural Conservation Area.

Development proposals in designed landscape shall be accompanied by an appraisal of the contributing elements and an impact assessment.

AH 11 Custodianship

Promote an inter-disciplinary approach demonstrating best practice with regard to the custodianship of protected structures, recorded monuments and elements of built heritage.

AH 12 Placemaking for Towns and villages

Promote the value of placemaking in cooperation with communities in their towns, villages and local areas.

AH 13 Traditional Building Skills

Support and promote traditional building skills, training and awareness of the use of appropriate materials and skills within the Local Authority, community groups, owners and occupiers of traditionally built structures.

AH 14 Design and Landscaping in New Buildings

Encourage new buildings that foster an innovative approach to design and acknowledges the diversity of suitable design solutions in appropriate locations while promoting the added economic, amenity and environmental value of good design.

12.6 Archaeological Heritage

The archaeological heritage of County Galway includes structures, constructions, groups of buildings, developed sites, places, caves, sites, feature or portable objects, all recorded monuments as well as their contexts, and moveable objects, situated both on land and underwater or in the inter tidal zones.

Archaeological remains provide valuable information about our past and the people who lived here before us. This rich and valuable archaeological heritage provides a valuable cultural, educational and tourism resource creating an important sense of place. Each site and monument have a unique character and contribution to make to the landscape of the County and adds meaning to our understanding of the environment. The appropriate management of archaeological remains is essential to ensure the survival of these invaluable features.

Over time some sites have disappeared, others survive beneath the current ground surface leaving no visible surface trace or have been remodelled within more modern buildings or stand as monuments in their own right.

The Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has specific responsibilities for the identification and protection of our archaeological heritage through the National Monuments Service. The National Monuments Service carries out these duties in regard to sites and monuments and their policies are outlined in the "*Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1999)*" and other policy documents.

12.6.1 Monument Protection

A Monument can be protected in one of five ways:

- a. It is in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).
- b. It is registered in the Register of Historic Monuments (RHM).
- c. It is a National monument subject to a preservation order (or temporary preservation order).

- d. It is a National monument in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht or a Local Authority.
- e. Archaeological structures may, in some situations, be considered as architectural heritage and, therefore, may appear on both the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). These structures are accordingly protected by both the National Monuments Acts and the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

Prior written consent from the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is required for any works at or in relation to all known archaeological monuments and zones of archaeological potential. Archaeology and the historic landscape provide a unique sense of place that benefits the quality of life and economy of the county. The Council will safeguard archaeological sites, monuments, objects and their settings listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), and any additional newly discovered archaeological remains, and by identifying archaeologically sensitive historic landscapes ensure this rich heritage is maintained into the future.

12.6.2 Record of Monuments and Places

All known archaeological monuments are included in the statutory Record of Monuments and Places. The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) was established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 and structures, features, objects or sites listed in the RMP are known as Recorded Monuments. Any persons proposing to carry out works at or in relation to a recorded monument must give two months written notice to the Minister. RMP maps and manuals are available for consultation (see www.archaeology.ie) or in the County library or the Planning office of Galway County Council.

12.6.3 National Monuments

Under Section 14 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004 a National Monument is a monument in the ownership or guardianship of the State and or a Local Authority or monuments that are the subject of a Preservation Order or a Temporary Preservation Order. Prior written consent from the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is required for any works at or in relation to all known archaeological monuments and zones of archaeological potential. Lists of national monuments in the Minister's ownership or guardianship (by county) and the listing for Preservation Orders can be accessed at (www.archaeology.ie).

12.6.4 Underwater Archaeology

County Galway's coastal waters, tidal estuaries and rivers contain many features and finds associated with its maritime/riverine heritage such as shipwrecks, piers, quay walls, fords, stepping stones and associated archaeological objects and features such as submerged landscapes, harbours, jetties, landing places, fish traps, kelp grids, bridge sites, crannogs and tidal mills. Section 3 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1987 makes specific provisions for the protection of shipwrecks and underwater archaeological objects. Further information can be accessed at (www.archaeology.ie).

12.6.5 Historic Towns/ Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN)

Galway has a number of important settlements identified in The Urban Archaeological Survey of County Galway which include the towns of Athenry, Loughrea, Portumna and Tuam and the historic settlements of Ardrahan, Báile Chláir, Dunmore, Eyrecourt, Kilcolgan and Meelick. In the case of each of the towns and settlements listed above a Zone of Archaeological Potential is mapped showing the area most likely to contain archaeological remains, both upstanding and subsurface.

The towns of Athenry and Loughrea are fortified towns and are members of the Irish Walled Town Network (IWTN). The Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN), seeks to ensure that Ireland's unique cultural and archaeological heritage in relation to its walled and fortified towns and cities is protected and managed in a sustainable manner. The '*National Policy on Town Defences (DoELG 2008)*' demonstrates commitment towards the protection, preservation and conservation of historic urban defences in Ireland.

12.6.6 Zones of Archaeological Potential

The physical remains of the archaeological monument today are not necessarily the full extent of the original monument which can remain buried in the ground with no visible surface evidence. This is the Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP). This can vary with monument type such as Early Ecclesiastical Sites, ringforts, medieval castles & churches complexes. The SMR database (www.archaeology.ie) identifies Zones of Notification to assist authorities and other agencies.

12.6.7 Medieval Archaeology

Many of Ireland's medieval structures, both rural and urban, were swept away in the 18th/19th century and replaced with buildings that make up the core of our heritage building stock today. Further potential for archaeology lies within these old buildings, as some were remodelled retaining elements of older buildings. Prior to development of these buildings an assessment should be carried to assess the heritage value of the structure.

12.6.8 Industrial and Post medieval Archaeology

Other important elements of our archaeological heritage are the later remains of structures and features associated with industrial, agricultural, cultural, military, docks and harbours, religious, social activities. These Industrial and post medieval items of built heritage include penal chapels, limekilns, houses, mass paths, stepping stones, mills, bridges, railway features and famine burial grounds. They can make a valuable contribution to the local historic landscape and have potential to add to our understanding of the past. Whilst some of these are Archaeological Monuments and/or Protected Structures, the vast majority have no such protection and are consequently very vulnerable items of our heritage.

12.6.9 Battlefield and Siege Sites

Battlefields have a significant place in our history and development of the nation. They contribute to the local historic environment and are ripe for interpretation and development as an economic resource. The Zone of Archaeological Potential of battlefield and siege sites can be quite extensive and can include associated features such as camp sites, entrenchments fortifications, siege works, and mass burials. There are significant battle sites in County Galway such as the site of the Battle of Aughrim and the Battle of Knockdoe. Therefore, in assessing any development proposals consideration should be given to the conservation and protection of the significant battlefield sites in County Galway.

12.6.10 Burial Grounds

Burial grounds are an important part of local heritage and often contain the standing remains or sites of earlier structures and also contain a great diversity of natural heritage and biodiversity. Burial grounds, which are included in Records of Monuments and Places, are afforded protection under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994. Consultation with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is necessary prior to undertaking any proposed works in relation to historic graveyards. Galway County Council has an important role in protecting all historical burial grounds in County Galway and to encourage their maintenance and care in accordance with appropriate conservation principles.

12.6.11 Archaeology and Development

The Council requires that a proposed development (due to location, size or nature) which may have archaeological implications for archaeological heritage be subject to an Archaeological Assessment. This includes areas close to archaeological monuments, extensive in area (half hectare or more) or length (1km or more) and development that require an Environmental Impact Statement.

Where archaeological materials are found appropriate mitigation measures shall be put in place. Preservation in situ should generally be the presumed to be the preferred option and only compelling reasons can justify preservation by record.

Development that does not compromise sub surface archaeological remains will be encouraged. This is most effectively achieved by the refurbishment of existing buildings, in situations where it is possible to retain the greater part of the existing structures without the need for new foundations.

Various types of development can have visual or physical impacts on the setting of an archaeological monument. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveal the significance of the heritage asset will be favourably treated.

Previously unidentified archaeological sites may be uncovered during construction works including drainage schemes or road making. Archaeological deposits, which may be damaged by the development, must be investigated and recorded. It important that any development or planning application that has the potential to impact on an archaeological site, monument or structure shall be referred to the relevant Prescribed Bodies.

12.6.12 Raising Archaeological Awareness

Galway County Council has an important role to play in promoting initiatives aimed at raising awareness of archaeological heritage. Given the vast range of archaeological heritage within the County there is considerable potential for interpretation and recreation and contribution to the local economy through tourism.

Policy Objectives

ARC 1 Legislative Context

Support and promote the preservation, conservation and appropriate management and enhancement of the County's archaeological sites and monuments, together with the settings of these monuments, having regard to the legislative, statutory and policy provisions relevant to the conservation of the archaeological heritage.

ARC 2 Archaeological Sites

Seek to encourage and promote awareness of and access to archaeological heritage of the County for all, through the provision of information to landowners and the community generally, in co-operation with statutory and other partners.

ARC 3 Archaeological Landscapes

To facilitate where possible the identification of important archaeological landscapes in the County.

ARC 4 Protection of Archaeological Sites

Protect archaeological sites and monuments their settings and visual amenity and archaeological objects and underwater archaeological sites that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, in the ownership/guardianship of the State, or that are subject of Preservation Orders or have been registered in the Register of Historic Monuments, or that are newly discovered and seek to protect important archaeological landscapes.

ARC 5 Development Management

All planning applications for new development, redevelopment, any ground works, refurbishment, and restoration, etc. within areas of archaeological potential or within close proximity to Recorded Monuments or within the historic towns of County Galway will take account of the archaeological heritage of the area and the need for archaeological mitigation.

ARC 6 Burial Grounds

Protect the burial grounds, identified in the Record of Monuments and Places, in co-operation with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Encourage the local community to manage burial grounds in accordance with best conservation and heritage principles.

ARC 7 Battlefield Sites

Protect the Battle of Aughrim site and other battlefield sites and their settings.

ARC 8 Underwater Archaeological Sites

To protect and preserve the archaeological value of underwater archaeological sites and associated features. In assessing proposals for development, the Council will take account of the potential underwater archaeology of rivers, lakes, intertidal and subtidal locations.

ARC 9 Recorded Monuments

Ensure that any development in the immediate vicinity of a Recorded Monument is sensitively designed and sited and does not detract from the monument or its visual amenity.

ARC 10. Zones of Archaeological Potential

To protect the Zones of Archaeological Potential located within both urban and rural areas and around archaeological monuments generally as identified in the Record of Monuments and Places. Any development within the ZAPs will need to take cognisance of the potential for subsurface archaeology and if archaeology is demonstrated to be present appropriate mitigation (such as preservation in situ/buffer zones) will be required.

ARC 11 Industrial and Post Medieval Archaeology

Protect and preserve the archaeological value of industrial and post medieval archaeology such as mills, limekilns, bridges, piers, harbours, penal chapels and dwellings. Proposals for refurbishment, works to or redevelopment/conversion of these sites should be subject to careful assessment.

ARC 12 Archaeology and Infrastructure Schemes

Have regard to archaeological concerns when considering proposed service schemes (including electricity, sewerage, telecommunications, water supply) and proposed roadwork's (both realignments and new roads) located in close proximity to Recorded Monuments and Places and their known archaeological monuments.

12.7 Cultural Heritage

County Galway has a rich and diverse cultural heritage which is a significant social and economic asset to the County. Culture plays a very important role in defining the perception of the county and providing its citizens with a sense of identity and continuity. Cultural heritage includes tangible culture such as buildings, monuments, books, works of art and artefacts and intangible cultural heritage such as folklore, traditions, language, and knowledge.

Arts and cultural facilities not only contribute to the artistic, social and general quality of life of communities, they are also significant contributors to the economy of the County by attracting visitors, investment and job creation. Many people visit the towns, monuments, archaeological and historical sites each year to enjoy this cultural experience. Culture is inherently multi-disciplinary, for example linking policies on economic growth and regeneration with those on environment, heritage and infrastructure provision. This Plan aims to encourage the further development of these cultural assets, increase local awareness of our heritage and cultural identity and promote the cultural tourism industry.

Galway County Council recognises the importance of our folklore and oral cultural heritage to the people of County Galway and to future generations. The Council will aim to work with groups in gathering, recording, preserving and promoting folklore and oral cultural heritage in the County. The County and Branch libraries strategically placed across the County provide a strong role in communities catering for all age groups with an active involvement in a yearly calendar of events. These branches provide a wide range of services that are a valuable resource in terms of culture, heritage and education. Galway County Council Archives service maintain the archives of the Galway County Council local authorities and make available archives that are invaluable cultural and heritage assets.

Investment in culture and heritage can play a very important role in improving amenities and the attractiveness and liveability of different areas, urban areas including small towns and rural

areas. Plans for investment in culture and heritage recognise that high quality infrastructure is critical for a vibrant heritage and culture sector and that investment in our cultural heritage underpins social cohesion and supports strong, sustainable economic growth.

Regional priorities aim to enhance arts and culture centres throughout the country, develop the sustainable tourism potential of our culture and heritage infrastructure and improve Ireland's outdoor recreation infrastructure and natural heritage. The Council acknowledges the importance of arts and cultural infrastructure to the county and that the renovation of Community Centres will bring valuable contributions for the people of Galway. The Council also acknowledges the contribution of Theatre and Arts Centre and Arts and will support same, where appropriate. The Council acknowledges the significance of utilising the Percent for Art Scheme as a means to create unique and meaningful artistic interventions within towns and communities.

12.7.1 Historical Sites and Initiatives

There are a number of places in the county which are of great public interest as places of historic interest, notably amongst these places, are sites associated with battlegrounds such as the Battle of Aughrim site. Places of social and folklore significance, like the original fairground in which the Fair of Ballinasloe was held, are also of public interest and it is the intention of Galway County Council to acknowledge the importance of these sites and to endeavour to protect and preserve them as places of historical interest.

The events of the decade between 1913 and 1923 were momentous and defining ones. It was the Decade of Centenaries 2013-2023 that influenced relationships for a generation and was a period which saw the achievement of Irish independence and the foundation of our State. The decade was very important in modern Irish history and justifies a comprehensive commemorative programme that recognises its significance, acknowledges the achievements of its generation and enhances the understanding today of the events that shaped our society.

12.7.2 Placenames

The basic purpose of a placename is to prove identity and to assist communications. Irish placenames are an integral, part of the cultural heritage of Ireland. They are a valuable source of knowledge of the past, giving meaning to the landscape and defining the relationship between communities and their physical environment. Much of the folklore, genealogy, religion, daily life and work of those living on and interacting with their landscape can be appreciated through the study of placenames.

12.7.3 The Gaeltacht and Linguistic Heritage

Galway County Council recognises the importance of our linguistic heritage to the people of the County and to the cultural heritage of County Galway. Parts of Galway County lie within the Gaeltacht, mainly in the area from Bearna to Carna and including Oileáin Árann. These areas require special treatment to protect their linguistic and cultural heritage without hindering

development and with an appropriate response to opportunities and challenges. The challenge is to promote these areas as a focus for development whilst ensuring that the development, which does occur, supports or complements the linguistic and cultural heritage. Galway County Council will work in partnership with groups who work for the promotion of the Irish language.

12.7.4 Intangible Cultural Heritage

In December 2015 Ireland ratified the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Intangible cultural heritage refers to the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage. This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity.

12.7.5 County and Branch Libraries & Archives

Galway public library service was established in 1924 and is funded by Galway City and County Councils. Galway has 29 libraries including branches on four islands and a Mobile Library serving rural communities and some house bound readers that do not have access to a library. Island House, Cathedral Square, Galway is the Headquarters of Galway Public Library Service.

Galway Public libraries provide a popular service for everyone, allowing unbiased and unparalleled access to the world's knowledge. The priority of Galway Libraries is to make the local library the Community/Cultural Hub of each town and village in the county. The Public libraries provide public talks on many topics, exhibitions and also provide the nationwide Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme which acknowledges libraries as a valuable source of community health information.

The goal of the Galway County Council Archives service is to maintain the archives of the Galway County Council local authorities and to collect and make available archives that are of local importance. Therefore, Galway County Council shall make arrangements for the proper care, conservation and management of its archives. Galway County Council Archives Service's mandate is therefore to acquire, preserve, manage and make accessible the local authority's archives. It will also, when resources allow, collect, preserve, manage and make accessible the documentary heritage of the county and its people as these important collection and records are an invaluable cultural and heritage asset.

Policy Objectives

CUH 1 heritage

Protect and promote the cultural heritage assets and the intangible cultural heritage assets of County Galway as important social and economic assets.

CUH 2 Special Places of Historic Interest

To protect and promote where possible special places of historical interest.

CUH 3 Placenames/Naming of New Developments

Promote and preserve local place names, local heritage and the Irish language by ensuring the use of local place names or geographical or cultural names which reflect the history and landscape of their settings in the naming of new residential and other developments. All names will be in the Irish language only. The naming and numbering schemes including associated signage must be submitted to the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of a new development.

CUH 4 The Gaeltacht and Linguistic Heritage

(a) To protect the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Gaeltacht and to promote Irish as a community language. To promote and facilitate the sustainable development of An Ghaeltacht and Island communities in County Galway.

(b) To support organisations involved in the continued promotion and preservation of the Irish language and culture. To work in a positive and encouraging way to create and maintain a bilingual environment in the County, and to ensure the availability of opportunities for the use of spoken and written Irish.

CUH 5 Library and Archives

(a) To facilitate the development and implementation of *Galway Library Development Programme 2016-2021 or subsequent programme* and support the development and promotion of the library network in the county.

(b) Galway County Council shall support the provision of a purpose-built repository, meeting international archival standards, to house, and ensure the preservation, of this important heritage resource.