

Archaeological Desktop Assessment

Proposed Fire Station, Athenry, Co. Galway

Client: Vincent Hannon Architects

Issue date: March 2021

Prepared by: Edel Barry, Shanarc Archaeology Ltd.



Copies of this report have been presented to:	The client, Vincent Hannon Architects.
Please Note:	<p>The International and European conventions on the protection of cultural heritage ratified in Ireland have been taken into consideration for the purposes of this report. The National Monuments Acts 1930-2014, the Heritage Act 1995, the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999, the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), and relevant guidelines issued by the statutory bodies have been consulted in the assembly of this report.</p> <p>All of the recommendations made within this assessment are based on design plans and information provided by the client at the time of writing. Should any alterations be made to design plans or development proposals, further assessment may be necessary.</p> <p>Recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p>
Ordnance Survey of Ireland Licence	Where Ordnance Survey of Ireland (OSI) material has been reproduced in this report it has been done so under licence EN 0077921 © Ordnance Survey of Ireland/Government of Ireland.
Acknowledgements	Shanarc Archaeology acknowledges the information supplied by the client; information gathered from the SMRand RMP and from the Topographical files at the National Museum of Ireland.
Copyright	The contents of this report, including any original drawings and photographs, are the property of the author(s) and Shanarc Archaeology. Any reproduction of said report requires the written permission of Shanarc Archaeology. Images and drawings supplied by third parties are acknowledged individually.
Report Design and Template	Shanarc Archaeology 2021.

Contents

1. Introduction 1

 1.1 Site Location 1

 1.2 Development Description 3

2. Assessment Methodology 3

 2.1 Legislative Protection for Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage . 3

 2.2 Desktop Study 5

 2.3 On-Site Inspection 7

3. Receiving Environment 8

 3.1 Archaeological and Historical Background 8

 3.2 Cartographic Analysis 12

 3.3 Toponymy 15

 3.4 Archaeological Heritage 16

 3.4.1 National Monuments 16

 3.4.2 Sites and Monuments Record and Record of Monuments and Places 16

 3.4.3 Previous Archaeological Investigations 17

 3.4.4 Previous Archaeological Finds recorded in NMI Topographical Files 20

 3.5 Architectural Heritage 20

 3.5.1 Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 20

 3.5.2 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage 22

 3.6 Site Inspection 22

 3.6.1 Plates 24

4. Impacts and Mitigation Recommendations 29

 4.1 Impacts 29

 4.2 Mitigation Measures 29

 4.2.1 Pre-Construction Mitigation 30

 4.2.2 Construction Phase Mitigation 30

5. Conclusion 31

6. Bibliography 32

 Cartographic Sources 33

 Electronic Sources 33

Figures

Figure 1 General location of proposed development site (<i>outlined in red</i>) in wider context at Athenry (Source: OSi Licence No. EN0077921).....	2
Figure 2 Location of proposed development site (<i>outlined in red</i>) in local context at Athenry (Source: OSi Licence No. EN0077921).....	2
Figure 3 Layout of proposed development, sketch design (Source: Vincent Hannon Architects).....	3
Figure 4 Down Survey map of County Galway, showing Athenry town (<i>red arrow</i>) (Source: www.downsurvey.tcd.ie).	12
Figure 5 Taylor & Skinner's Map 89 of the Road from Dublin to Galway, showing approximate location of proposed development site (<i>outlined in red</i>) (Source: www.swilson.info).	13
Figure 6 Extract from hand coloured first edition OS map, 1837-43, showing proposed development site (<i>outlined in red</i>) (Source: OSi Licence No. EN0077921).....	14
Figure 7 Extract from Cassini 6-inch edition OS map, c.1940, showing proposed development site (<i>outlined in red</i>) (Source: OSi Licence No. EN0077921).....	15
Figure 8 Distribution map of sites listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (<i>red dots</i>), with associated Zones of Notification (<i>shaded pink</i>), and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage sites (<i>blue dots</i>) relative to proposed development site (<i>outlined in red</i>) (Source: OSi Licence No. EN0077921).....	17
Figure 9 Athenry Architectural Conservation Area relative to proposed development site (<i>outlined in red</i>) (Source: Galway County Development Plan, Appendix III, Architectural Conservation Areas pg. 2, www.galway.ie).	21

Plates

Plate 1 View across subject site from south, looking north-west.	24
Plate 2 View along southern boundary, looking north-east along the original R348.	24
Plate 3 View to north-west corner.....	25
Plate 4 Natural rise to south-east corner.....	25
Plate 5 View along southern boundary, looking south-west towards motorway, showing slight dip from south-east to north-west towards the right of the photo.	26
Plate 6 View across subject site from north, looking south-east.	26
Plate 7 Strip of recently cleared ground flanking road embankment to south-west of site.	27
Plate 8 Extract from Google Earth retrieved 25.02.2021 showing construction compound inside footprint of proposed development site (<i>outlined in red</i>) (Source: earth.google.com).....	27
Plate 9 View from top of mound in north-west corner, looking south-east.	28
Plate 10 Base of market cross (GA084-111) in field to south-east of proposed development site.....	28

1. Introduction

This archaeological desktop assessment relates to the proposed development of a fire station at Ballygarraun South, Athenry, Co. Galway (Figure 1). The report has been prepared by Shanarc Archaeology Ltd. for Vincent Hannon Architects.

The proposed development site is located approximately 45m outside the Zone of Archaeological Notification/Zone of Archaeological Potential for the historic town of Athenry (GA084-001).

The assessment is based on existing archaeological and built heritage records, and readily available literary and cartographic sources, which were supported by a site inspection. It will be submitted in support of a planning application for the development to Galway County Council.

The purpose of the archaeological desktop assessment is to:

- (i) evaluate the nature and extent of known archaeological, built heritage or other cultural heritage assets at the site;
- (ii) address potential impacts on archaeological, built heritage or other cultural heritage assets, including impacts on potential sub-surface archaeological remains; and
- (iii) provide mitigation recommendations to address potential impacts on archaeological, built heritage or other cultural heritage assets.

1.1 Site Location

The proposed development site is located in a rural area, on the outskirts of Athenry, to the south-west of the historic town centre and its associated Zone of Archaeological Notification/Zone of Archaeological Potential (GA084-001). It is sited in the townland of Ballygarraun South, in the Barony and Civil Parish of Athenry, Co. Galway. Sandwiched between the Dublin-Galway railway line and the R348 regional road, including a new road embankment constructed as part of IDA Ireland's Athenry Strategic Site Infrastructure Works, it is located approximately 1km south-west of the centre of Athenry (Figure 2). The M6 motorway passes approximately 780m to the south-west.

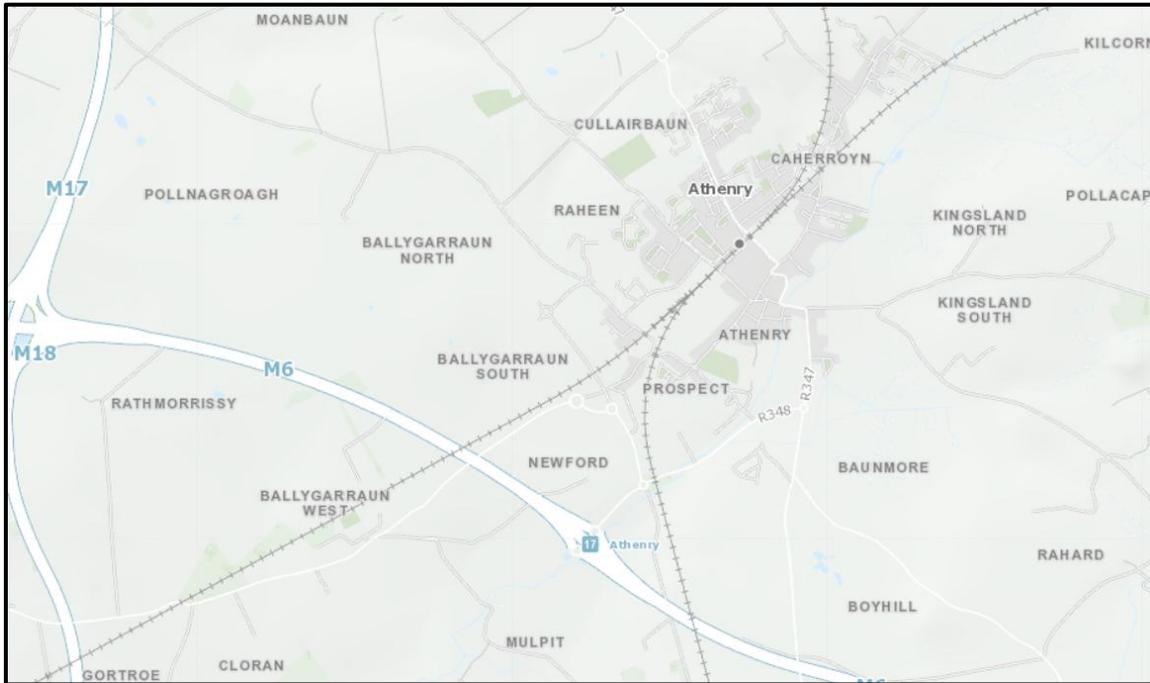


Figure 1 General location of proposed development site (outlined in red) in wider context at Athenry (Source: OSi Licence No. EN0077921).



Figure 2 Location of proposed development site (outlined in red) in local context at Athenry (Source: OSi Licence No. EN0077921).

1.2 Development Description

The proposed development comprises the development of a fire station, with ancillary structures including a training tower, as well as car parking facilities, a gas tank, and all ancillary site works (Figure 3).



Figure 3 Layout of proposed development, sketch design (Source: Vincent Hannon Architects).

2. Assessment Methodology

This assessment report is based on a desk-top study of relevant archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage sources, supported by an on-site inspection. The assessment is guided by relevant legislation, standards and guidelines in respect of archaeology, architecture and cultural heritage, as follows.

2.1 Legislative Protection for Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage

Ireland has ratified several international and European conventions on the protection of cultural heritage, principally:

- UNESCO World Heritage Convention 1972;

- Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (Venice) 1964;
- European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valetta Convention) 1992;
- European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage (Grenada Convention) 1985;
- European Council Directive on Environmental Impact Assessment (85/337/EEC) (as amended).

National legislation protecting cultural heritage sites comprises:

- National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended);
- Heritage Act 1995;
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999; and
- Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The following standards and guidelines were also consulted as part of this assessment:

- Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1999), Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands;
- Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation (1999), Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands;
- The Heritage Council, 2000. Archaeology & Development: Guidelines for Good Practice for Developers (2000), The Heritage Council;
- Guidance on the preparation of the EIA Report, 2017, European Commission;
- European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018;
- Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (Draft) (August 2017), Environmental Protection Agency;
- Advice notes on current practice in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements (2003), Environmental Protection Agency;
- Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impacts of National Road Scheme (2005), National Roads Authority;

- Guidelines for the Assessment of Architectural Heritage Impacts of National Roads Schemes (2005), National Roads Authority; and
- Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011), Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands.

2.2 Desktop Study

The following were the principal desk-based sources consulted:

National Monuments

Under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014, archaeological sites in the ownership or guardianship of the State or a Local Authority and sites under Preservation Orders are designated as National Monuments. Such sites are offered the highest level of protection under Irish legislation, as the preservation of such sites is considered of national importance.

Record of Monuments & Places and Sites and Monuments Record

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) was established under Section 12 of the 1994 National Monuments (Amendment) Act. The statutory RMP is a list of archaeological monuments known to the National Monuments Service, and is based on the earlier Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) files housed at the National Monuments Service. The record is updated on a constant basis.

Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) are the national archive of all known antiquities recorded by the NMI. These files relate primarily to artefacts but also include references to monuments and contain a unique archive of records of previous excavations. The find-spots of artefacts can be an important indication of the archaeological potential of an area.

Excavations Bulletin and Excavations Database

The Excavations Bulletin is both a published annual directory and an on-line database that provides summary accounts of all the excavations carried out in Ireland – north and south – from 1969 to the present. The on-line database has been compiled from the

published Excavations Bulletins from the years 1970-2010, with additional online-only material from 2011 onwards. The database gives access to summary descriptions of archaeological monitoring and excavation reports, and is updated on a constant basis.

Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021

Each City and County Development Plan is compiled in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and contains lists of national monuments, recorded monuments, a Record of Protected Structures (a list of buildings which cannot be materially altered or demolished without grant of permission under the Act) and Architectural Conservation Areas (to protect and enhance the special character of an area).

Heritage is addressed in Chapter 9 of the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021, titled 'Heritage, Landscape & Environmental Management.' Built Heritage is addressed in Section 9.4, with Architectural Heritage Policies and Objectives addressed in Section 9.5. Archaeological Heritage is addressed in Section 9.6, while Archaeological Heritage Policies and Objectives are listed in Section 9.7. Appendix III contains the Architectural Conservation Areas, while Appendix V contains the Record of Protected Structures (revised 21/01/2020).

Athenry Local Area Plan 2013

The Athenry Local Area Plan was adopted on 25 June 2012 as a plan of landuse and overall strategy for the development of the town from 2012-2022. It was intended to complement the implementation of the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021.

Development Policies, Objectives and Guidelines with regard to Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage are detailed in Section 3.8.

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is an ongoing survey within the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (formerly the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht). The work of the NIAH involves identifying and recording the architectural heritage of Ireland, from AD1700 to the present day and includes country houses, churches, mills, bridges and other structures of note. The NIAH

survey of East Galway was carried out in 2008, and is the largest survey of the post-1700 built heritage of East Galway.

Cartographic Sources

Information gathered from cartographic sources is fundamental to the identification of archaeological and architectural heritage sites, including cultural landscapes e.g. demesne landscapes, which, based on the level of landscape change, are now often identified from cartographic records alone. The earliest Ordnance Survey maps date to the late 1830s and early 1840s, but much change has occurred in the use and treatment of the landscape in the intervening years, particularly during the second half of the 20th century, making these a valuable resource in tracing the development of a study area.

Toponymy Sources

A townland name may preserve information relating to its archaeology, history, folklore, ownership, topography or land use. Most placenames were anglicised by the Ordnance Survey, which began in the 1830's. Despite some inaccuracies in translation, the Gaelic, Viking, Anglo-Norman and English origins of placenames are generally recognisable. The Placenames Database of Ireland website (www.logainm.ie) hosts online bi-lingual placename research and archival records for townlands.

Documentary Sources

Documentary sources are a valuable means of completing the written archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage record of an area, and of gaining insight into the history of the receiving environment. A list of all consulted documentary sources is provided in bibliographic form.

2.3 On-Site Inspection

On-site inspection offers the opportunity to examine a study area in light of desk-based research and evidence. Inspection is essential in determining the nature and extent of any surviving above-ground evidence, and in predicting the potential effects of a proposal on potential below-ground remains. A site inspection was carried out by Edel Barry of Shanarc Archaeology Ltd. on 10 February 2021.

3. Receiving Environment

3.1 Archaeological and Historical Background

The extent of prehistoric and historic activity within the wider study area is attested to by the number and range of known archaeological monuments within the surrounding landscape.

Athenry is situated on the Esker Riada, a series of natural eskers of gravel or boulder clay forming a ridge stretching from Dublin to Galway. West of the River Shannon, this largely conflates with the route of the *Slí Mór* or 'great road' from Dublin to Galway, via Clonmacnoise (O'Sullivan and Downey 2015, 15). A number of road/trackway sites are recorded south of Athenry, namely GA084-113, in Prospect townland; and GA084-118, in Ballygarraun South and Raheen townlands, which are thought to correspond with the *Slí Mór*. Archaeological investigation in Ballygarraun South has shown that these roadways correlate with the surface of a gravel ridge. While documentary records of Athenry begin with the arrival of the Anglo-Normans, there is some evidence of prehistoric and early medieval activity in the wider area.

A fulacht fiadh is sited in close proximity, in the townland of Baunmore (GA084-023). These monuments are described as cooking sites comprising a stone or wood-lined trough dug into the ground in a location that naturally filled with water, and are overwhelmingly Bronze Age (c. 2400-500 BC) in date. A cist (GA084-101), also commonly thought to date to the Bronze Age, was identified, in the adjacent townland of Newford, by a local farmer to the Ordnance Survey surveyors in 1828. It was overground, as opposed to the more common sub-surface variety, and contained a crouched burial and an earthenware vase.

Early medieval sites occur within an approximate 2km radius, including a ringfort at Ballygarraun North (G084-008); a large enclosure at Ballygarraun North (GA084-009) with an adjacent souterrain (GA084-009001); four ringforts (GA084-028-029, 031-032) and an enclosure (G084-030) at Boyhill; and a ringfort at Caherroyne (G084-034). A large enclosure in Raheen (GA084-120) was referred to as 'the Cashel of Raheen' in 1918; it comprised a roughly triangular area defined by an arc of substantial but collapsed drystone walls. A number of other enclosures have been identified in Ballygarraun South (GA084-014-016).

The barony of Athenry was created 1178 for Piers de Bermingham. However, Meiler deBermingham received the grant of Athenry in 1235, in reward for his support of Richard de Burgo in the invasion of Connacht. DeBermingham had an Anglo-Norman masonry castle (GA084-001006), comprising a keep and a bawn wall, built c.1235-1240. Skilled masonry artisanship is exhibited in the windows and doorway, of a level usually reserved for ecclesiastical structures in this period (Coyne and Fitzgerald 2013, 2). While it originally comprised a first-floor hall, accessed via wooden stairs, a second floor was added in the mid-13th century, and the gable ends were raised in the 15th century, raising the roof above the battlements. The location of the castle occupies a rise, which overlooked a ford in the River Clarin (Bradley & Dunne 1992, 22-3). The De Bermingham family resided at the castle until the 15th or 16th century, at which point they moved to a dwelling in the town square (Coyne and Fitzgerald 2013, 2).

A murage charter, referring to a 'stone wall', was granted for three years in 1310 by Edward II; it is traditionally held that subsequently, the construction and maintenance of the walls were financed by the spoils of a battle between the Anglo-Normans and native Irish forces in the area (Thomas 1992, 10). The original town walls of Athenry likely comprised earthen ramparts, with an outer moat. By the 14th century, however, the town was enclosed by a curtain wall with inner ramparts, and a fosse 8m in width. The latter would originally have been fed with water diverted from the River Clarin. They joined with the bawn wall of the castle to the north-east, in total enclosing an area of approximately 28 hectares. Five gates were originally incorporated into the walls, providing access to the town, but only the North Gate survives. This likely dates to the 15th century. Six towers were also placed along the wall, but were likely later insertions rather than integral to the wall structure (Coyne and Fitzgerald 2013, 2).

Athenry was likely the earliest walled Anglo-Norman urban foundation in Connacht and was unusually large, being twice the size of the original walled town of Galway. This is attributed to some competition between de Bermingham and overlord de Burgh, who developed Loughrea and Galway (Thomas 1992, 11). Two major streets, running north-south, in addition to a number of cross-streets, appear to preserve the remnants of a chequered street plan (Coyne & Fitzgerald 2013, 2). A grant for a fair was made to DeBermingham in 1244 (Thomas 1992, 10).

The hinterland of the walled town was controlled by and large by a native population, under the control of the O'Connor's, Kings of the historic territory of Connacht. Attacks

by the hostile native population on the town are recorded in the Annals in 1249 and 1316. The second Battle of Athenry took place on 10 August 1316, and resulted in the defeat of the King of Connacht, Feidhlim O'Connor, by Anglo-Norman forces under the command of William deBurgh and Richard de Bermingham. This led to the deBurgh family retaining control over most of Connacht for the remainder of the medieval period, deviating from the Anglo-Norman administration, and largely integrating into Gaelic society (Chevalier 2019, 16).

Saint Mary's Church (GA084-001015) was established as the parish church of Athenry shortly after the foundation of the town. It was made collegiate by Donatus, Archbishop of Tuam (1450-1485). Later destroyed by fire during the attack by the sons of the Earl of Clanricard (1574), its chancel was adapted to incorporate a Church of Ireland church (NIAH 30332017) in 1828. Parts of the medieval nave and transepts survive. It is situated within a graveyard (GA084-001024).

A Dominican Priory (GA084-001014), dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul, is situated on the eastern side of the River Clarin, within an associated graveyard (GA084-001025). Founded By Meiler de Bermingham, construction was begun in 1241. Both the native Irish and Anglo-Norman's contributed to the construction of the priory – the refectory was built by King of Connacht Phelim O'Connor; the dormitory was built by Eugene O'Heyne; the chapter house by Cornelius O'Kelly; the guest room by Dermot O'Treasy; and the infirmary by Art MacGallyly (Coyne & Fitzgerald 2013, 2). While no traces of the domestic buildings or cloister remain extant, the church is well-preserved. The northern aisle and transept were likely added c.1324, with a tower added c.1425; the latter alterations took place following extensive damage by fire in 1425, and also incorporated the replacement of a number of windows, some doorways being blocked and the side arcade being reduced. Although the priory was exempted from the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII, it was dissolved in 1574 and granted to the town of Athenry (Coyne & Fitzgerald 2013, 3). In 1627, it was granted to Galway merchants, who allowed the friars to return, and restored the buildings. Cromwellian forces expelled the friars in 1652.

Numerous funerary monuments are contained within the church of the friary, including a coped grave cover (GA084-001032) thought to mark the grave of the founder, Meiler de Bermingham; at least ten ornately carved high medieval graveslabs (GA084-001033-001038; GA084-001076, 001078-001079); decorative 17th century slabs (GA084-001046;

GA084-001047), some bearing occupational symbols such as a blacksmiths tools (GA084-001051) or a plough sock and coulter (GA084-001062, GA084-001065); and a large, 18th century tomb, dedicated to Lady Matilda Bermingham, in the chancel.

A bridge (GA084-024) carrying the road across the Graigueabbey River led to the 'Spittle Gate,' the south gateway to the medieval town. Wickerwork centering was noted in three of the bridge arches, indicating that the bridge has a medieval core.

The sons of the Earl of Clanricard, Richard Burke, who resided at Loughrea, were vying over their future succession to the earldom, their strife having a strong and negative impact on the surrounding territory. As part of their rebellion against the crown, they attacked the town of Athenry in 1554, destroying much of it. Lord Deputy Henry Sidney was charged with the 're-edifying of the town' and set about building an inner wall as further protection. The Clanricards submitted to Queen Elizabeth. However, in 1577 they attacked once more, setting the new gates on fire, destroying the recently-constructed buildings, and driving away the workmen employed in repairing the fortifications (Lewis 1837). In 1584, the queen was petitioned to 'bring over English artisans and tradesmen to settle in the town, to rebuild it and improve it and to support a sufficient force for its future protection' (Thomas 1992, 10).

In the 18th century, the Dominican priory was gutted, providing materials for the construction of the military barracks built south thereof.

Athenry House (NIAH Ref. 30332038) was built c.1780, the grand residence of a Mr Lopdell. Its demesne landscape, incorporating formal gardens, a well (GA084-001017), and a dovecote (GA084-001021), occupy a significant proportion of the lands at the south of the town on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 6).

Newford Country House (GA084-131) was a similar country house, shown as having considerable gardens, orchards and landscaped grounds, south-west of the town of Athenry.

The Midland Great Western Railway between Dublin and Galway opened a station at Athenry in 1851. Later, a line connecting Limerick with Athenry (The Ennis & Athenry Junction Railway) opened in 1869.

The proposed development site is recorded in Griffith's Valuation of 1850 as being the property of James Perry, a prominent Quaker who held a considerable amount of land around Athenry at the time.

Taylor and Skinners Maps of the Roads of Ireland, 1777

George Taylor and Andrew Skinner undertook their survey of the Roads of Ireland, commissioned by the House of Commons (Ireland), in 1777, and produced a volume of these maps, depicting towns and villages, country seats and other structures en route in 1778.

Taylor and Skinner's 1777 Map 89 of the route from Dublin to Galway (Figure 5) depicts the layout of the town of Athenry, with a clear street pattern and considerable building, although the town walls are not shown. An enclosed area to the east of the town may be the enclosed Anglo-Norman Castle. To the south of the town, Newford demesne is depicted, as the property of Browne Esq. The southern approach to the town and the lands around the Newford are tree-lined, and a number of raised pieces of ground are depicted west and south-west of Athenry. No development is depicted at the approximate location of the proposed development site.



Figure 5 Taylor & Skinner's Map 89 of the Road from Dublin to Galway, showing approximate location of proposed development site (outlined in red) (Source: www.swilson.info).

Ordnance Survey Maps

The first ever large-scale survey of Ireland was undertaken by the Ordnance Survey between 1829 and 1842, producing highly accurate maps at different scales. The proposed development site is depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 6). It is contained within a single large field, within a townland which is characterised by a relatively regular configuration of field boundaries. The townland boundary between Ballygarraun South and neighbouring Prospect and Newford townlands is marked by a road at the south-east of the site, the precursor of the R348. A gate lodge is depicted facing the subject site, guarding the entrance to the demesne landscape of Newford House, to the south. The outline of an enclosure is depicted to the north-west. The town of Athenry, to the north-east, is depicted as well-developed, with some of its town wall depicted.

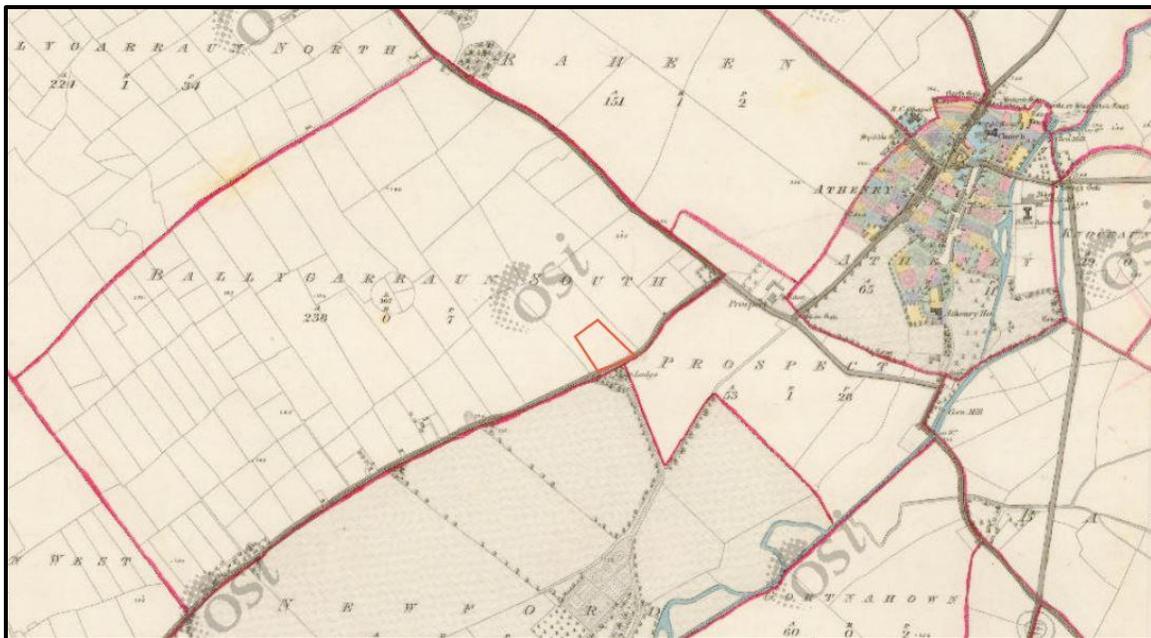


Figure 6 Extract from hand coloured first edition OS map, 1837-43, showing proposed development site (outlined in red) (Source: OSi Licence No. EN0077921).

The 1908-1913 25-inch edition Ordnance Survey map sheet depicting this area is unavailable.

The Cassini 6-inch edition Ordnance Survey map, dated c.1940 (Figure 7), depicts some additional development within the area of the subject site. The Great Southern Railway, into which all of the railway lines in the Republic had recently been amalgamated, is now shown traversing the landscape directly behind the subject site. The remaining

easternmost corner of Ballygarraun South townland has been divided into long narrow plots associated with road-fronted workers houses. The north and west of the townland has had many of its field boundaries removed, now being divided into a small number of large fields. The enclosure to the north-west is denoted as 'Mount Shaw'. The town defences of Athenry are denoted as 'Ancient Wall,' with several towers and 'Loro Gate' also denoted.

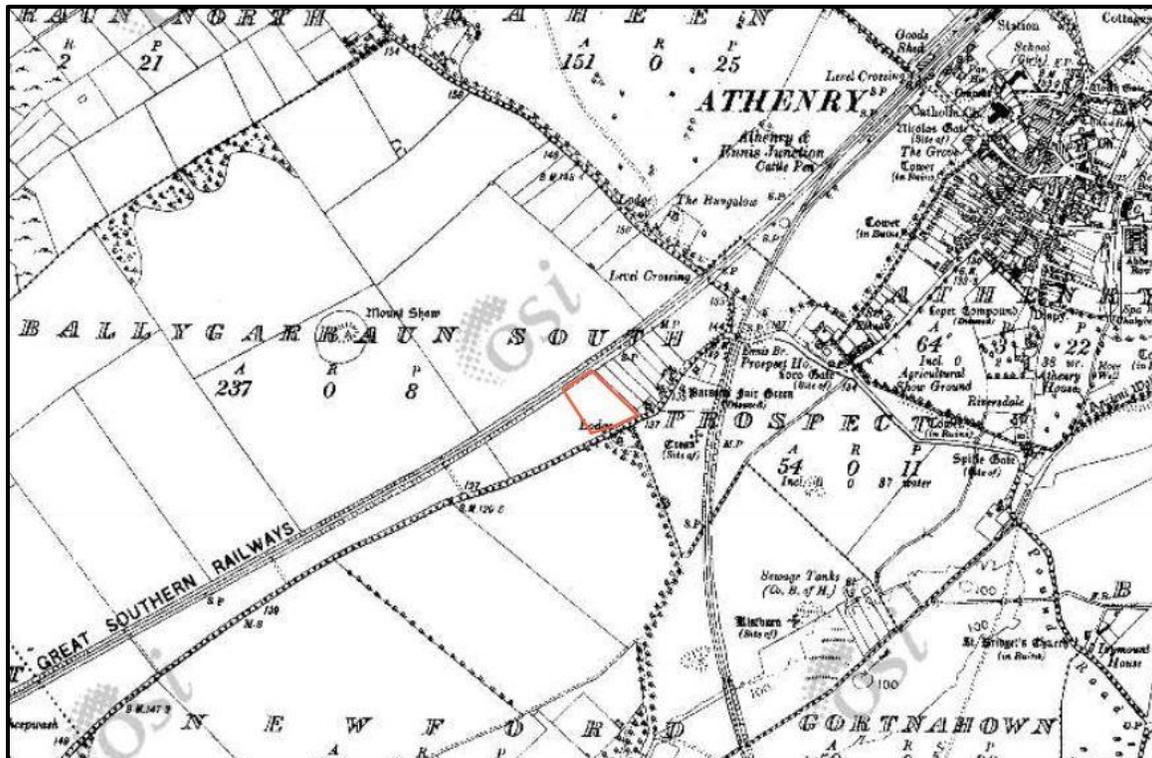


Figure 7 Extract from Cassini 6-inch edition OS map, c.1940, showing proposed development site (outlined in red) (Source: OSi Licence No. EN0077921).

3.3 Toponymy

The name of Athenry may derive from *Áth na Rí*, the 'ford of the kings' (<https://www.logainm.ie/en/19599>), but it is thought more likely that it derives from *Baile átha an ríogh*, the 'town of the river ford,' in reference to its situation adjacent to the ford over the River Clarin (Coyne and Fitzpatrick 2013, 1).

The townland name of Ballygarraun South derives from *Baile an Gharráin*, the 'town of the grove.' The placename of *Ballinegarraine* was first recorded in 1610 (<https://www.logainm.ie/ga/19602>).

3.4 Archaeological Heritage

3.4.1 National Monuments

Athenry Abbey, A Dominican Priory, is a national monument (NM 164) in State Ownership (GA084-001004).

Athenry Castle is a national Monument (NM 406) in State Ownership (GA084-001006).

The medieval town defenses as a whole are also considered a National Monument under the meaning of the Act.

3.4.2 Sites and Monuments Record and Record of Monuments and Places

The proposed development site lies a short distance outside the Zone of Archaeological Potential surrounding the historic town of Athenry (GA084-001). Several sub-elements form part of the historic town, including the town defences (GA084-001001) and the Anglo-Norman masonry castle (GA084-001006), with a D-shaped bawn (GA084-001085), some of the walls of which act as a component of the town defences.

A considerable proportion of the town wall survives intact, with the closest remnant thereof located at a distance of 381m north-east of the proposed development site. This feature, indicated as 'Swan Gate' on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 6) and as 'The Loro Gate (site of)' on Cassini Ordnance Survey map (Figure 7) was presumed to have been removed, until archaeological investigations revealed the internal face of the east side of the gate approximately 0.25m beneath the road surface. The remains comprise roughly-shaped stone blocks, in random courses. This gate formed one of the main entrances to Athenry, and is the only surviving remnant of an original gate (the North Gate, extant, dates to a building phase which took place in the 16th century).

The RMP sites within a 500m radius of the proposed development site are presented in Table 1, and their locations shown on Figure 8.

Table 1 Recorded Monuments within a 500m radius of the proposed development site.

RMP No.	Class	Townland	ITM Easting	ITM Northing	Proximity (m)
GA084-001001	Town Defences ('Loro Gate')	Athenry	549850	727545	381m
GA084-014----	Enclosure	Ballygarraun South	548962	727609	336m
GA084-101----	Cist	Newford	549757	727101	436m
GA084-102----	Quarry	Newford	549582	727032	418m
GA084-109001-	Redundant record	Prospect (Athenry By.)	549649	727630	233m
GA084-109002-	Redundant record	Prospect (Athenry By.)	549687	727629	240m
GA084-110----	Redundant record	Prospect (Athenry By.)	549580	727502	48m
GA084-111----	Cross	Prospect (Athenry By.)	549583	727430	85m
GA084-112----	Quarry	Prospect (Athenry By.)	549785	727337	316m
GA084-113----	Road - road/trackway	Prospect (Athenry By.)	549732	727499	48m
GA084-118----	Road - road/trackway	Ballygarraun South, Raheen (Athenry By.)	549332	727978	399m



Figure 8 Distribution map of sites listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (*red dots*), with associated Zones of Notification (*shaded pink*), and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage sites (*blue dots*) relative to proposed development site (*outlined in red*) (Source: OSi Licence No. EN0077921).

3.4.3 Previous Archaeological Investigations

A suite of archaeological investigations have been undertaken in the townland of Ballygarraun South and in adjacent townlands of Prospect and Newford.

Archaeological monitoring and investigation was carried out at Ballygarraun South, in advance of the construction of a proposed IDA Campus. The groundworks involved topsoil stripping of a wayleave for an access road, extending north-west from the existing roundabout on the R348 Athenry Road, and now abutting the proposed development site, to the site of the proposed campus (see Plate 8). An Archaeological Assessment of the wider area, then the lands of the Teagasc Research Farm, including geophysical survey and preliminary test excavation (Licence No. 06E0107, Excavation Bulletin No.2006:747) was carried out by Margaret Gowan & Co, identifying no previously unrecorded archaeological sites that the proposed access route would impact upon; it noted that there would be a direct impact on GA084-118 (trackway).

A number of known RMP sites in Ballygarraun townland were investigated through geophysical survey and testing at this time (licence 06E0370, Excavation Bulletin No. 2006:740;). Two levelled sub-rectangular enclosures (GA084-015-016) revealed no features or deposits of archaeological significance. Test trenches on the surface of unclassified earthwork (GA084-014), situated 336m north-west of the proposed development site, and known locally as 'Mount Shaw,' revealed a small area of collapse, around a low rectangular-shaped stone structure on the northern summit. The circular setting of stones was thought to represent a gate-like feature, to restrict access to the structure. An earthen bottle plug and several pieces of animal bone were found in the topsoil cover, while a sherd of medieval pottery, animal vertebrae, ribs and a shoulder, and a small copper mount were recovered. A short cist (GA084-101) in Newford townland, which had been identified by workmen while digging at the summit of a low hill in 1913, was also investigated. One cist contained a food vessel and skeletal remains; a perforated boar's tusk likely to be a grave good was also found in one of the graves. Ten features of archaeological significance were identified through test trenching in the vicinity of the cist; three were shallow pits, without artefacts; seven were regular or irregularly-shaped clay spreads, one of which produced five pieces of chert and one possible piece of burnt bone.

Subsequent investigation in the area of the wayleave of the then-proposed, now-constructed access road was carried out (Licence 18E0003, Excavation Bulletin No. 2018:508). This work exposed an old field boundary, a 19th-20th century pit/spread, and the remains of a 19th century wall at the location of GA084-118. Further monitoring and investigation (licence 18E0003, Excavation Bulletin No. 2018:512) revealed the remnants of a double-skinned wall foundation, one course deep, and made of dry stone random

rubble with packing stones. 19th and early 20th century white table ware, shards of brown glass, fragments of red and yellow brick and metal debris were found in the immediate area. The wall was surveyed before being covered with terram geotextile to be preserved *in situ*. Monitoring also identified two pits and a linear feature, which produced modern material.

A site located 14m to the south-east, in the townland of Prospect, was subjected to archaeological test excavation by Dominic Delaney (21E0018) in January 2021. No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified (Dominic Delaney, *pers. comm.*)

At the site of a proposed new Presentation College at Ballygarraun South, north-west of the proposed development site, testing was carried out along the alignment of an old field boundary (GA084-118), which was identified as an ancient road/trackway but not substantiated as an archaeological monument. Testing and monitoring (licence 13E0030, Excavation Bulletin No. 2013:551) along this road/trackway suggests it follows the line of a former gravel ridge. A number of agricultural linear features, such as stone-filled drains and silted-up furrows were revealed, as well as a large, natural gravel ridge, running east-west across the south of the site.

Monitoring under licence 17E0632 (Excavation Bulletin Nos. 2018:058; 2018:080) in the adjacent townland of Newford revealed nothing of archaeological interest. During further monitoring of topsoil stripping in the townland a series of pits and post-holes were identified, and subsequently investigated (licence 18E0713, Excavation Bulletin No. 2019:575). A possible kiln and 9 possible pit or post features were identified. A Henry III type II silver penny, minted between 1251 and 1254, was recovered from the upper fill of one pit. This activity was thought to be roughly contemporaneous with the earliest buildings at Athenry.

Test excavation (licence 98E0432, Excavation Bulletin No. 1998:230) was carried out in the grounds of the early 19th century Athenry House, within the bounds of Athenry town. A stretch of the medieval town wall, and the site of Spittle Gate, lie in the southern corner of the site. There was no evidence to suggest this area was settled in the medieval period.

Archaeological testing was carried out on the site of a small housing development at Swangate (licence 96E0377, Excavation Bulletin No. 1996:147). A U-shaped cut, and an adjacent D-shaped cut were noted. Occasional finds of animal bone were revealed but

no other finds or features of archaeological significance. Adjacent to this site, also known as 'Loro Gate', (C360, E4040; 2014:496) monitoring of excavation work was carried out in advance of conservation work to Loro Gate. This, one of four gates in the medieval town walls, was uncovered during monitoring of road works in August 2007. The south-east wall of the gate as excavated, and comprised a 0.6m wide buttress, built up against the outer face of the original 1.5m thick wall. It was interpreted as post-dating the original town defences, comprising the construction of a new gate, or the refortification of an existing entrance, at this location. Buttressing suggests the structure underwent repair or was enlarged. A few pieces of badly-corroded iron were recovered, as well as moderate quantities of animal bone and oyster shell, probably indicative of dumping in the medieval moat.

The monitoring of a domestic water connection was undertaken in August 2011 in Prospect townland; the trench for the pipeline crossed the site of the medieval town wall, where a gateway accessed the property (licence 11E0301, Excavation Bulletin No. 2011:245). It was determined that the gateway had been constructed directly atop the original town wall. Stones from the wall, which was 0.85m in width, were identified beneath, apparently having been level off. The water pipe was laid beneath the existing plinth of the entranceway, avoiding the original wall feature. No other artefacts or features of archaeological significance were identified.

3.4.4 Previous Archaeological Finds recorded in NMI Topographical Files

No finds are provenanced to the townland of Ballygarraun South in the topographical files.

3.5 Architectural Heritage

3.5.1 Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021

Record of Protected Structures

The Record of Protected Structures (RPS) is contained within Appendix V of the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021. The proposed development site does not contain any protected structures, nor are any located within the immediate vicinity. However, 5 protected structures are located within a 500m radius of the proposed development site. These are listed in Table 2.

Table 2 Protected Structures within 500m of the proposed development site.

RPS Ref.	Location	Description	Proximity (m)
3983	Railway Bridge	Humpback single-arch rusticated limestone railway bridge	214
3984	Saint Bernard's	Detached three-bay two-storey L-plan house, built c.1930.	316
3985	Fiesole	Detached three-bay two-storey L-plan house, built c.1930.	309
144	Prospect House	Detached five-bay two-storey house with central half hexagon bow; round-headed stone doorcase and rear return, c.1800	337
3982	House, Prospect, Athenry	Detached three-bay two-storey house, built c.1930	465

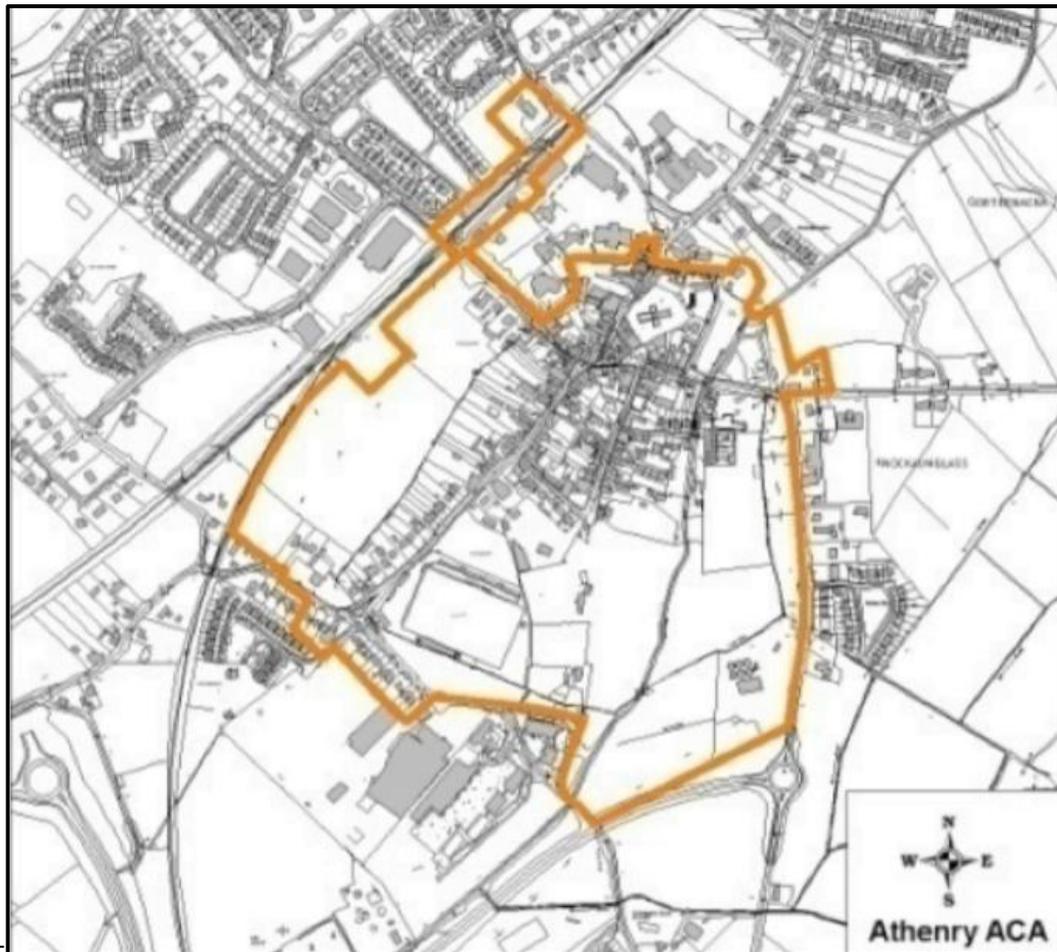


Figure 9 Athenry Architectural Conservation Area relative to proposed development site (outlined in red)
 (Source: Galway County Development Plan, Appendix III, Architectural Conservation Areas pg. 2, www.galway.ie).

Architectural Conservation Areas

The Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) in County Galway are detailed and addressed within Appendix III of the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021. The proposed development site is not contained within any ACA. The closest ACA is that of Athenry town centre (Figure 9), within which a medieval townscape survives remarkably intact. In addition, the extent of the surviving town wall places this as one of the most complete town wall circuits in Ireland. This area is recognised as a fortified medieval townscape, evidenced in its street pattern, plot sizes, buildings, and architectural coherence. Open fields, contained within the town walls, are considered to be notable feature, being unusual within the walled area.

3.5.2 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) survey for Galway lists 5 structures in close proximity of the proposed development site, albeit none within a 200m radius. These structures are all located to the east of the subject site, on the outskirts of the town of Athenry. NIAH structures within a 500m radius of the proposed development site are listed in Table 3, and their locations shown on Figure 8.

Table 3 NIAH sites within 500m of the proposed development site.

Reg. No	Name/Original Use	Date	Rating
30332033	House	1920-1940	Regional
30332034	Railway Bridge	1865-1870	Regional
30332035	Prospect House	1780-1820	Regional
30332036	Saint Bernard's	1920-1940	Regional
30332037	Fiesole	1920-1940	Regional

3.6 Site Inspection

A site inspection, undertaken by Edel Barry of Shanarc Archaeology Ltd., was carried out on 10 February 2021. The subject site is a sub-rectangular field, bounded to the south-west by a recently constructed road carriageway embankment, part of IDA Ireland's Athenry Strategic Site Infrastructure Works - Road Works Phase 2 (**Plate 1**), and to the north-west by the Dublin to Galway railway line, a short distance south-west of Athenry

Station. A private domestic site bounds the site on the north-east, and the original alignment of regional road R348 runs along the south-east boundary (**Plate 2**). Post-and-rail fencing encloses the site along the new road embankment and partly along the R348; a rubble limestone wall forms part of the boundary towards the town end along the R348. Recent steel fencing runs along the railway track. Sparse trees and scrub are sited along the north-east boundary. A number of recently planted trees are situated in the south-east corner, where there is a small rise towards the corner of the field (**Plate 4**).

The topography of the field, which is in use as pasture currently, slopes very gently upwards towards the railway line at the north-west, with a slight rise to the south-east, and a gentle slope towards a dip in the centre of the field (**Plates 5 and 6**). The grass is tussocky, and a strip flanking the new road embankment stands out as having rough grass and thistles, indicative of the ground recovering after having being recently stripped – this area was cleared for use as a construction compound during the construction of the IDA Phase 2 roadworks (**Plate 8**). A heap of rubble, comprising large stones and including a piece of disused railway track, now overgrown with grass, is situated to the north-west corner of the field.

No features or anomalies of archaeological interest were identified during the site visit.

In the field to the south-east side of the road, the base of a cross (GA084-111) (**Plate 10**) remains extant.

3.6.1 Plates



Plate 1 View across subject site from south, looking north-west.



Plate 2 View along southern boundary, looking north-east along the original R348.



Plate 3 View to north-west corner.



Plate 4 Natural rise to south-east corner.



Plate 5 View along southern boundary, looking south-west towards motorway, showing slight dip from south-east to north-west towards the right of the photo.



Plate 6 View across subject site from north, looking south-east.



Plate 7 Strip of recently cleared ground flanking road embankment to south-west of site.



Plate 8 Extract from Google Earth retrieved 25.02.2021 showing construction compound inside footprint of proposed development site (*outlined in red*) (Source: earth.google.com).



Plate 9 View from top of mound in north-west corner, looking south-east.



Plate 10 Base of market cross (GA084-111) in field to south-east of proposed development site.

4. Impacts and Mitigation Recommendations

4.1 Impacts

The proposed development site is located approximately 45m outside the Zone of Archaeological Notification/Zone of Archaeological Potential for the historic town of Athenry (GA084-001).

Several recorded monuments are located within a 500m radius of the proposed development site, including the medieval town's defences (GA084-001001) at 'Loro Gate,' situated 381m to the north-east. An enclosure (GA084-014), situated 336m north-west, was previously subject to archaeological investigation; some archaeological finds were recovered, as well as a stone structure; additionally, the adjacent land to the south-west has been investigated as part of the way-leave for the access road to a proposed IDA campus, revealing some evidence of 19th/20th century activity, as well as a double-skin wall foundation.

There are no known RMP sites contained within the boundary of the proposed development, and proposed development at the subject site will not directly impact upon any known archaeological monuments or features.

However, the location of the site in close proximity to the Zone of Archaeological Potential for the historic town, as well as in close proximity to the historic town walls; and the identification of some archaeological features during prior archaeological investigation in the immediate vicinity of the subject site, indicates that there may be potential, hitherto unknown, archaeological remains at a sub-surface level.

No impact is envisaged upon built heritage as a result of the proposed development.

4.2 Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures are necessary in order to comply with national policy guidelines and statutory provisions for the protection of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage, including the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014, the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

4.2.1 Pre-Construction Mitigation

It is recommended that archaeological investigation, in the form of targeted test trenching, be employed to investigate the nature, date, extent and significance of any sub-surface archaeology present within the footprint of the proposed development site.

This work should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist in accordance with Section 26 of the National Monuments Acts 1930 – 2014, and with a method statement agreed in advance with the National Monuments Service (Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage) and the National Museum of Ireland.

It is envisaged that the following will apply:

- i. Should investigation yield evidence of archaeologically significant material or structures, preservation *in situ* may be recommended. Strategies for the *in situ* preservation of archaeological remains are conducted in consultation with the statutory authorities, and may include avoidance, if possible, of the remains during construction, or preservation through redesign.
- ii. Should investigation yield evidence of archaeologically significant material or structures that cannot be preserved *in situ*, archaeological excavation and recording, to full resolution, is recommended.
- iii. In the event of archaeological features or material being uncovered during pre-construction phase, it is crucial that machine work cease in the immediate area to allow the archaeologist to assess, excavate and record any such material.
- iv. Should archaeological features or material be uncovered, adequate funds to cover excavation, fencing (if required), post-excavation analysis, conservation work and reporting should be made available.

4.2.2 Construction Phase Mitigation

The monitoring of groundworks will be informed by the results of pre-construction test excavation.

It is envisaged that the following will apply:

- i. Should monitoring yield evidence of archaeologically significant material or structures, preservation *in situ* may be recommended. Strategies for the *in*

situ preservation of archaeological remains are conducted in consultation with the statutory authorities, and may include avoidance, if possible, of the remains during construction, or preservation through redesign.

- ii. Should monitoring yield evidence of archaeologically significant material or structures that cannot be preserved *in situ*, archaeological excavation and recording, to full resolution, is recommended.
- iii. In the event of archaeological features or material being uncovered during the construction phase, it is crucial that machine work cease in the immediate area to allow the archaeologist to assess, excavate and record any such material.
- iv. Should archaeological features or material be uncovered, adequate funds to cover excavation, fencing (if required), post-excavation analysis, conservation work and reporting should be made available.

5. Conclusion

This archaeological desktop assessment was undertaken by Shanarc Archaeology Ltd. relating to the proposed development of a fire station at Ballygarraun South, Athenry, Co. Galway. The report has been prepared by Shanarc Archaeology Ltd. for Vincent Hannon Architects. The assessment is based on the results of a desktop assessment and a site inspection of the proposed development location.

The subject site is of archaeological potential, relating to the proximity of a number of known archaeological monuments, particularly a surviving component of the former town wall. To address the archaeological potential of the subject site, a programme of pre-construction archaeological test-excavation is recommended.

PLEASE NOTE: Recommendations are subject to review and approval by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and by the National Museum of Ireland.

6. Bibliography

- Barry, T.B. 1987. *The Archaeology of Medieval Ireland*. Methuen, London.
- Bradley, J. 1985. 'Planned Anglo-Norman Towns in Ireland' in Clarke M.B. and Simms A. (eds.), *The comparative History of Urban Origins in Non-Roman Europe*. Brit Archaeol. Rep. 225, 411-68.
- Bradley, J. and Dunne, N. 1992. *Urban Archaeological Survey, Part XIX, Galway*.
- Coyne, F and Fitzpatrick, M. 2013. 'Heritage Guide No.60: The medieval town of Athenry' in *Archaeology Ireland*.
- Chevalier, C. 2019. 'Mapping and measuring the impact of the Bruce Invasion' in *History Ireland*, Vol. 27, No.5, Dublin's radical club, 1920s. pp 16-19.
- Galway County Development Plan, <http://www.galway.ie/en/services/planning/planspolicy/gcdp2021/> (retrieved 25 February 2021).
- Galway County Development Plan, Appendices <http://www.galway.ie/en/services/planning/planspolicy/gcdp2021/> (retrieved 25 February 2021).
- Galway County Council, Athenry Local Area Plan <http://www.galway.ie/en/services/planning/planspolicy/lap/athenry/> (retrieved 25 February 2021).
- Gwynn, A. and Hadcock, R.N. 1970. *Medieval Religious Houses: Ireland*. Dublin City University.
- Griffith's Valuation, 1848-64. <http://griffiths.askaboutireland.ie/gv4/z/zoomifyDynamicViewer.php?file=116019&path=../pix/116/&showpage=1&mysession=2747324993894&width=&height=&debug> (retrieved 25 February 2021).
- Killanin, Lord, and Duignan, M.V. 1989. *The Shell Guide to Ireland*. Edbury Press, London.
- Knox, H.T. 1917. 'Ballygarraun and Raheen Group of Works' in *Journal of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society* 1917-18.
- Lewis, S., 1837. *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, Vol 1*. Lewis & Co., London.
- Ó'Cróinín, D., 1995. *Early Medieval Ireland, 400-1200*. Longman, England.
- O'Keefe, T., 2000. *Medieval Ireland, an Archaeology*. Tempus, U.K.
- O'Sullivan, M. and Downey, L. 2015. 'Early Historic Routeways' in *Archaeology Ireland* Vol. 29, No. 3. pp 14-17.
- Papazian, C Collins, B and McCarthy, M. 1991. 'Excavations at Athenry Castle, Co. Galway' in *Journal of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society*, Vol. 43, pp. 1-45.
- Thomas, A. 1992. *The Walled Towns of Ireland, Volume 2*. Irish Academic Press, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

Cartographic Sources

Down Survey map of County Galway, 1656-58

Taylor & Skinners Maps of the Roads of Ireland, 1777

Ordnance Survey maps, 19th and 20th centuries

Electronic Sources

www.excavations.ie	Summary of archaeological excavations
www.archaeology.ie	Website listing RMP sites and NIAH sites
www.heritagemaps.ie/	Cultural heritage datasets
www.logainm.ie	Placenames database
www.downsurvey.tcd.ie	Down Survey maps
www.jstor.org	Journal articles, books and primary sources
www.libraryireland.com/topog	A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland
www.digital.ucd.ie	Ordnance Survey town plan series map viewer
www.swilson.info	Historic maps
www.askaboutireland.ie	Taylor and Skinners Maps of the Roads of Ireland
www.athenryheritagecentre.com	Heritage of Athenry
www.galway.ie	Local and County Development Plans
earth.google.com	Google Earth Imagery