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## Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of a Proposed Refurbishment of Tuam Town Hall, Townparks townland, Tuam, Co. Galway.



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Please note...

That the archaeological recommendations, mitigation proposals and suggested methodology followed in this report are similar to those used on previous similar projects approved by the Archaeological Planning and Licencing Unit National Monuments Service, Room G50, Custom House, Dublin 1 The National Monuments Acts 1930-2014, The Planning and Development Act 2002 (plus any amendments) and the most recent EPA guidelines were consulted. Guidelines and plans issued from time-to-time by the statutory and regulatory bodies have been consulted. These are listed in the reference section of this report (Dúchas 1999; 1999a; National Monuments Service 2006; EPA 2015; 2015a).

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All governmental guidance and protocol were followed in the preparation of this document.

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Acknowledgements

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Cover Image

Town Hall, from NE.

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## II. Glossary of Terms

ASI	Archaeological Survey of Ireland, a division of the DHLGH.
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).
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
E	East.
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement.
First Edition	This relates to editions of the OS 6-inch maps for each county. 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'.
ITM	Irish Transverse Mercator (grid reference type favoured by ASI).
KM	Kilometre.
M	Metres, all dimensions are given in metres or part of a metre, unless otherwise stated.
N	North.
NGR	National Grid Reference.
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.
NMI	National Museum of Ireland.
NMS	National Monuments Service. Regulatory body and division of the DHLGH.
OPW	Office of Public Works.
OS	Ordnance Survey.
OSI	Ordnance Survey of Ireland.
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places. A paper record comprising a map and list on which archaeological sites are recorded. The sites marked afford legal protection under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014. The record is based on the 6-inch map series for the country and is recorded on a county basis. Each archaeological monument on the RMP has a unique code known as the RMP number prefixed by TN for Tipperary North.
RMP Number	This code is the number of the site on the RMP constraint map. It begins with the county code, the 6-inch sheet number, followed by the number of the archaeological monument on that sheet.
RPS	Record of Protected Structures.
S	South.
Sheet	This relates to the 6-inch map for each county, which is divided into sheets.
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record. The precursor of the RMP, the SMR now commonly relates to the archive paper files of known archaeological monuments maintained by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI). These files are arranged according to SMR number. Much of this information is now available online at <a href="http://www.webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/">www.webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/</a> .
TB	Townland Boundary.
W	West, or when used with a dimension, width.
ZAN	Zone of archaeological notification (as shown on <a href="http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/mapping">webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/mapping</a> )
ZAP	Zone of archaeological potential (used for historic towns)

# 1. Scope of Study

This report identifies and assesses the potential direct and indirect impact(s), if any, on the potential archaeological environment of the subject site. The subject site the existing Town hall building.

The subject site is situated in County Galway in the townland Townparks (3<sup>rd</sup> division)) the barony of Clare, and the civil parish of Tuam ([https://www.logainm.ie/en/22034?s=Townparks+\(3rd+Division\)](https://www.logainm.ie/en/22034?s=Townparks+(3rd+Division))). Accessed 6 December 2021).

This report fulfils the requirement of an archaeological impact assessment and fulfils the usual criteria of an impact assessment following the most recent EPA guidelines on the compilation of an EIS and EIAR (2017; 2018). Pertinent guidelines published from time-to-time have also been consulted and are listed in the project references given at the back of this report. **Section 2** outlines the methods used in this assessment. **Section 3** describes the existing environment of the subject site, provides a description of the proposed development and records the site inspection carried out as part of this assessment. **Section 4** provides background heritage context for the subject site. A brief historical introduction to the area is provided and archaeological and architectural features in the vicinity, including any standing remains, are discussed. Social history and folklore associated with the site is addressed in this section. **Section 5** lists the known archaeology and historic architecture and the potential for archaeology and architectural features on the site and in its vicinity and discusses impacts, (if any), of development on that cultural heritage. **Section 6** provides a summary and suggests mitigation measures to alleviate negative predicted impacts listed in section 5. **Section 7** provides a summary in lay person's language of the more technical detail of the report. The report concludes with a signing-off statement (**section 8**); list of references used (**section 9**) and supporting information as annexes.

## 2. Method of Study

The following resources and methods of establishing the archaeological status of the site were used:

- A review of the planning history of the site was undertaken;
- The Record of Monuments and Places constraint maps and lists (RMP) and the sites and monuments record (SMR) were consulted;
- A wide range of local historical and archaeological records relevant to the study area were consulted, including the Ordnance Survey First Edition six-inch map (c.1840), the Ordnance Survey twenty-five-inch map and aerial views;
- All available published information was considered;
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage and Record of Protected Structures;
- The local area plan, county development plan and other pertinent documents were consulted (listed in references section);
- Artefact records of the National Museum of Ireland were consulted;
- A review of any archaeological investigations in the vicinity was also undertaken.

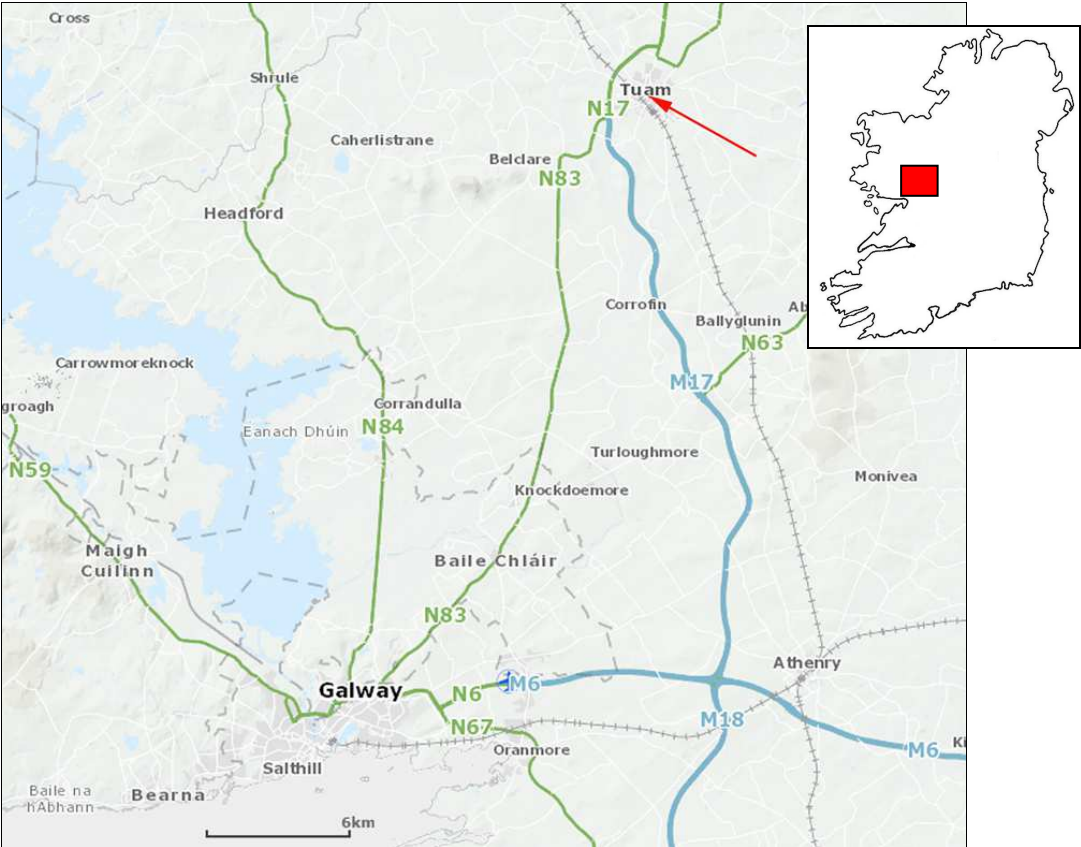


Figure 1. General site location of subject site (after [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)). North to top. Subject site in red.

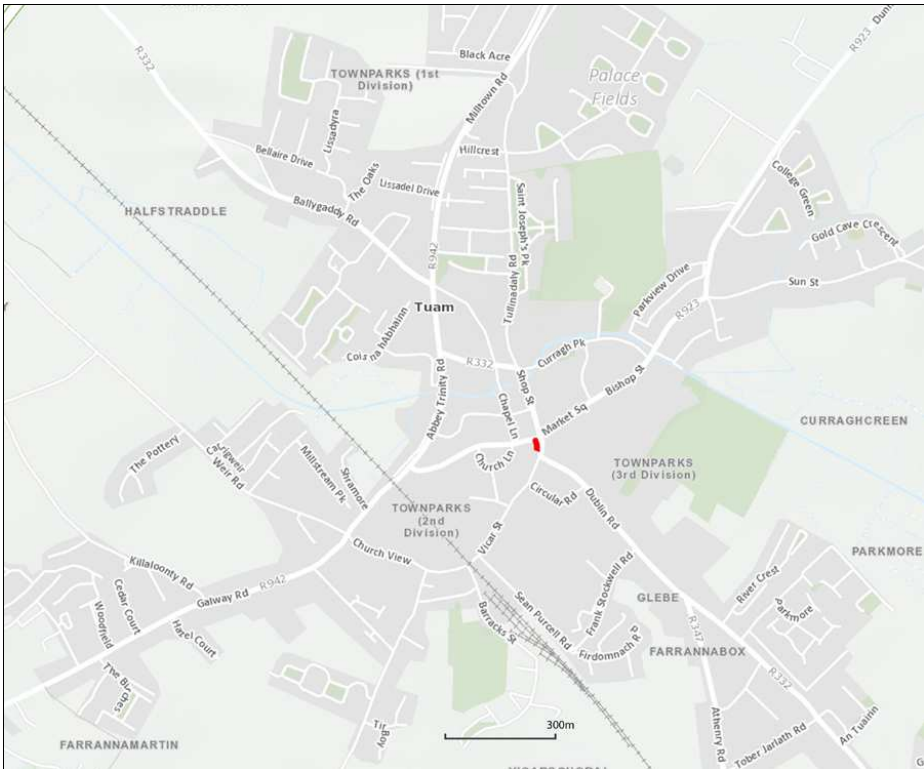


Figure 2. General site location of subject site at Townparks, Tuam (after [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)). North to top. Subject site in red.



### 3. Existing Environment

The subject site is the Town Hall, located in Townparks (3<sup>rd</sup> division) townland (ITM 543532/751975). It is located within the zone of notification for GA029-199---- (Historic Town of Tuam.)

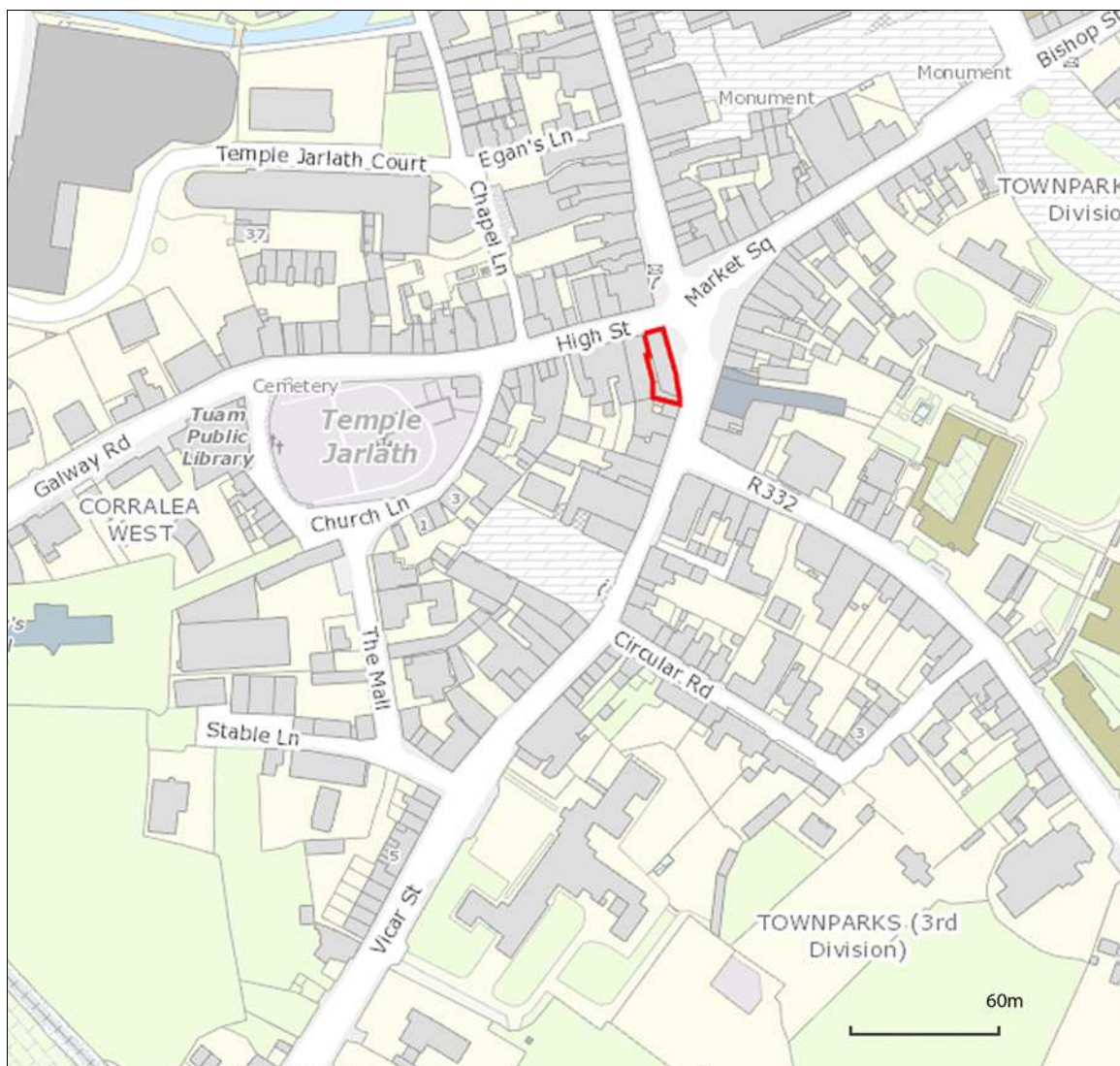


Figure 3. Map showing detailed location of subject site (after archaeology.ie, North to top). Subject in red. For indication only.

### 3.1 Proposed development (Fig. 4)

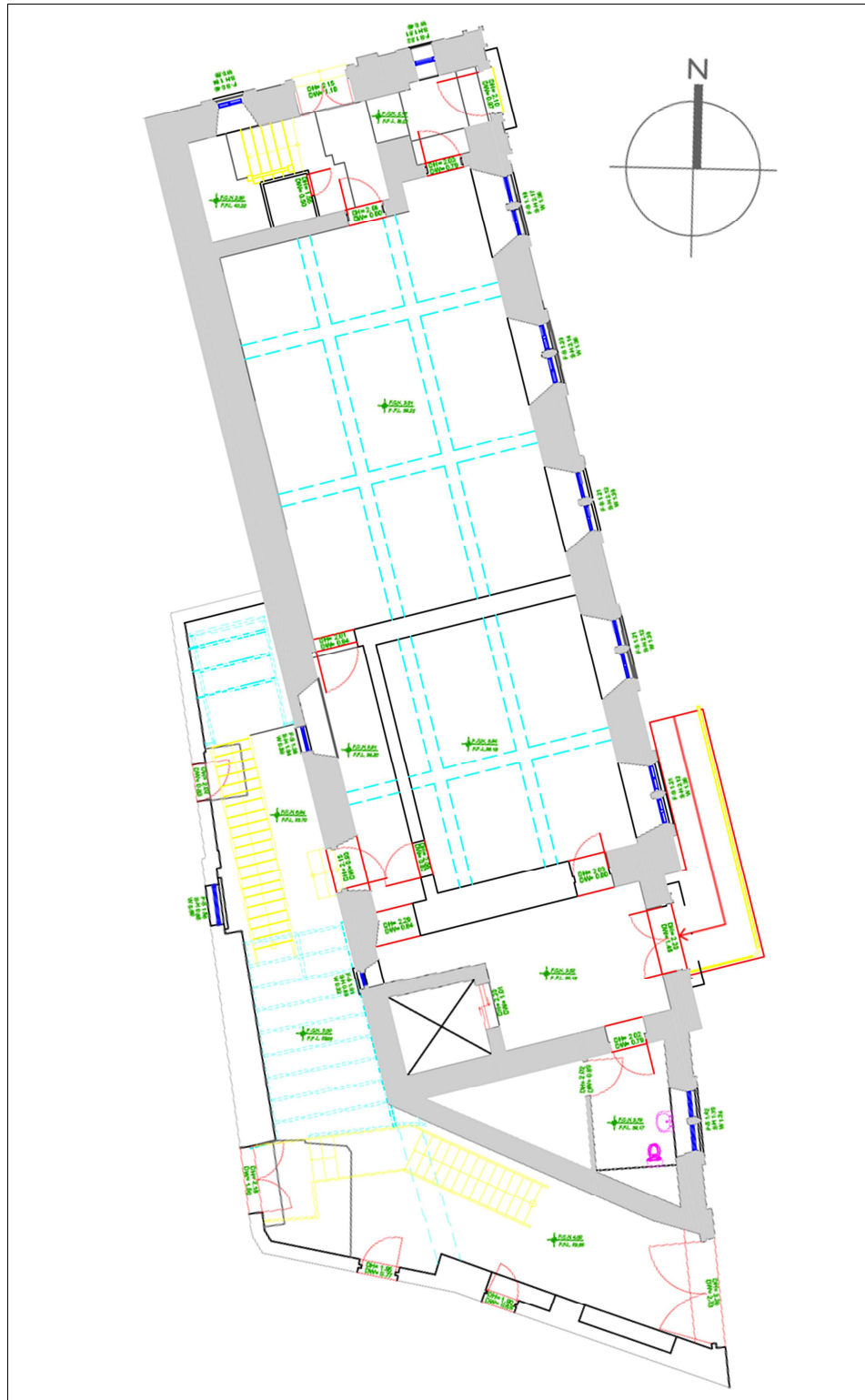


Figure 4. Ground floor plan of subject site (supplied by client).

The development will consist of refurbishment of the existing Town Hall building. No intrusive groundworks are proposed.

### 3.2 The Site (Plates 1-6)

The subject site is the existing Town Hall, Tuam, Co. Galway.



Plate 1. Town Hall, from N.



Town Hall, from E.

## 4. History and Archaeology of the Site and Vicinity

### 4.1 Historical and archaeological background (figs 6-9)

The subject site is situated in County Galway in the townland Townparks (3<sup>rd</sup> division) in the barony of Clare, and the civil parish of Tuam. The townland translates into Iris as *Pháirceanna an Bhaile*.

Tuam takes its name from a Bronze Age burial mound known as *Tuaim dá Ghualainn*, or the 'mound with two shoulders'. No trace of this mound survives. The mound surmounted a natural gravel ridge east of Shop Street. In the 5<sup>th</sup> century, it is claimed that St. Jarlath ended his days as bishop and abbot in Tuam. There are three sites in Tuam associated with St Jarlath; Toberjarlath, Temple Jarlath and Templenascreen (Claffey 2009, 1-2). In the twelfth century, the town became the centre of provincial power during the fifty-year reign of Turlough O'Connor. At the Synod of Kells in 1152, the centre of government also became the ecclesiastical centre. In 1164 Rory O'Connor built a stone castle in the town. Following the destruction of the first Cathedral in 1184, O'Connor left Tuam and retired to Cong Abbey, where he entrusted the Church valuables from the Cathedral at Tuam into the care of the abbot. This left Tuam as a small settlement and it wasn't until the early 17th century that it began to grow in importance again (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuam>). The nineteenth century inhabitants of Tuam entered an era of mixed fortunes. The Napoleonic wars had stimulated the economy, but this would change with the scaling down of hostilities. In 1821 the failure of the harvest led to famine. In 1843 the defunct corporation was succeeded by a board of town commissioners. They established a fair green, attended to water and sewage requirements and laid footpaths and paved streets. The Dublin -Galway railway line was completed in 1851. The twentieth century saw Tuam renewing its ancient standing as an important educational centre, having eight primary and secondary schools (Claffey 1999, 8).

A search of the national **folklore database** as presented in [www.duchas.ie](http://www.duchas.ie) did not yield any relevant entries for Townparks (3<sup>rd</sup> Division ) townland.



#### 4.1.1 Archaeological monuments (Figs 7-8)

The subject site is situated within the historic town of Tuam (Fig.5).

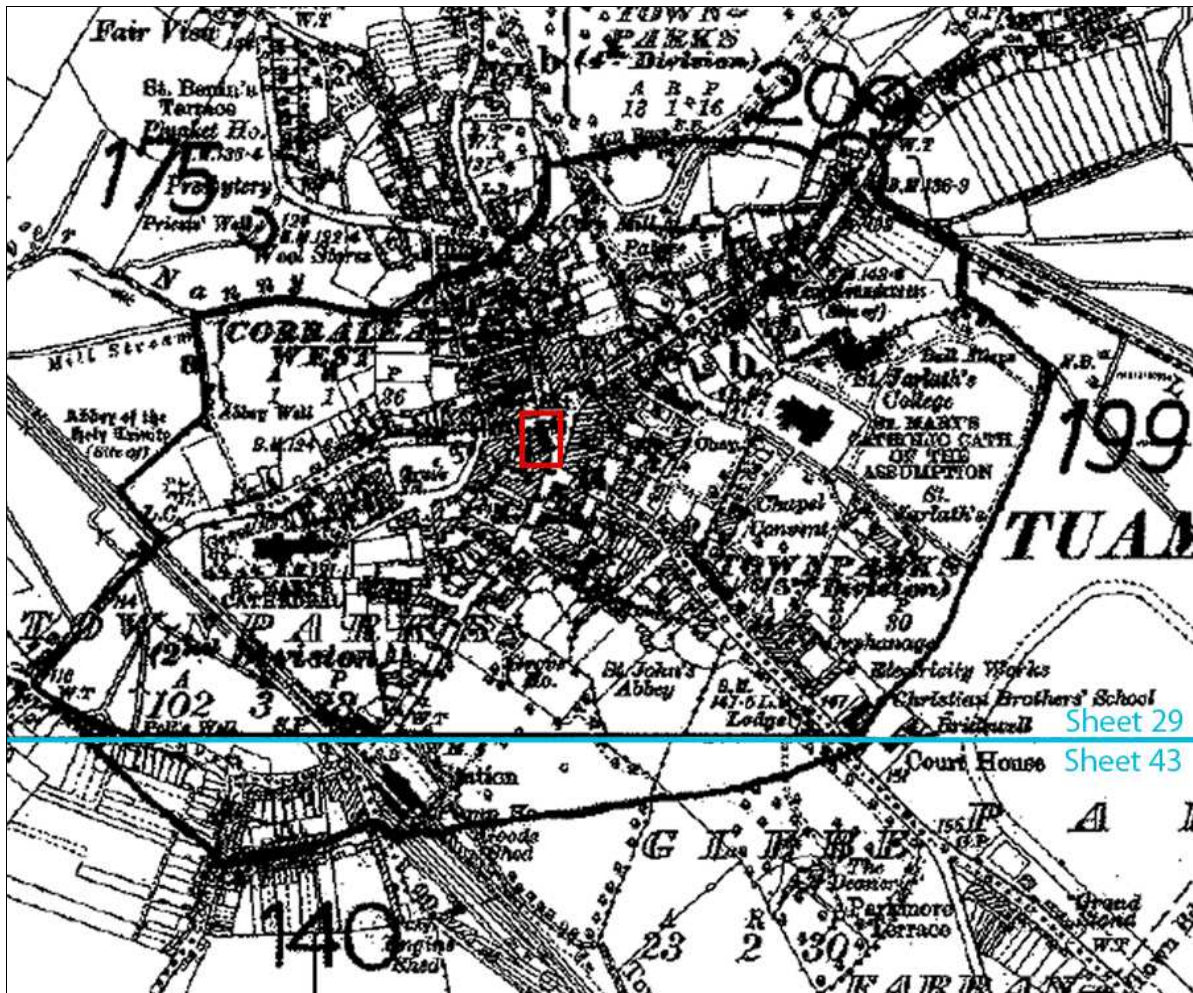


Figure 5. RMP map extract 1997, sheet 29, Co. Galway (based on 1929 ed OS map). North to top.

**Table 1. List of recorded archaeological monuments in the vicinity of the subject site (data after ASI).**

RMP/ SMR	Scheduled for inclusion in next revision of RMP?	Class	Townland	Summary Description	Distance from subject site
<b>GA029-199----</b>	Yes	Historic town	Various including Townparks (3 <sup>rd</sup> Division)	<p>On a steep rise on S bank of the River Nanny overlooking a fording point, the site is flanked to E and W by extensive bogs. St Jarlath founded a monastery at 'Tuaim-da-ghualann' in the early 6th C (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 98). Under the patronage of the Kings of Connacht (O'Conors) in the 11th-12th C, the settlement expanded rapidly and was named as one of four metropolitan sees at the Synod of Kells in 1152 (Killanin and Duignan 1967, 443-5; Stalley 1981, 179-80; Bradley and Dunne 1992, 166-8). The O'Conors built a 'castle' (GA029-173----: see also GA029-199003-) here in 1161 and by the first half of the 13th C documentary sources are referring to 'the suburbs' and 'houses of the ... town' as well as the granting of a licence for an annual fair (see GA029-178----, GA029-184001-; Lewis 1837, Vol. 2, 646). The numerous early Christian and medieval ecclesiastical remains comprise: (a) the chancel of a Romanesque church (GA029-179001-) and (b) a 14th-C 'Synod Hall' (GA029-179002-), both now incorporated into the gothic revival cathedral of St Mary; (c) 100m to NW lies the site of the 'Abbey of the Holy Trinity' (GA029-178----); (d) 150m to NW, in High St., is a probable early ecclesiastical enclosure (GA029-180003-) within which stands 'Temple Jarlath' (GA029-180001-); (e) 550m to NE, in Bishop St., is a second enclosure (GA029-068001-) within which stood 'Templenascreen' (GA029-068002-); (f) 325m to E, in Circular Rd, lies the site of 'St. John's Priory' (GA029-184001-); (g) 1.1km to SE, on the Athenry Rd, is a third enclosure (GA043-080001-) at Toberjarlath; and (h) c. 200m to S, in the Vicar St. area, stood St Brigid's Chapel (GA029-183----). The site of the shambles (GA029-199006-) is known and fragments of four high crosses (GA029-179006-, GA029-179007, GA029-179004-, GA029-184002-) survive. The post-medieval remains include an 18th-C bishop's palace in Bishop St (Bence-Jones 1978, 276), a pre-Emancipation chapel (GA029-181----), a vertical watermill (GA029-182----), a windmill (GA029-191----) and the 'Chair of Tuam' (GA029-172----). (Kelly 1901, 1904, 1906, 1908; Ó Murchú 1970)</p> <p>The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Galway Vol. II - North Galway'. Compiled by Olive Alcock, Kathy de hÓra and Paul Gosling (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1999).</p> <p>Date of upload: 05 August 2010</p>	The subject site is within the Zone of Notification for this monument

## 4.2 Previous archaeological work in the vicinity

A search of the licenced archaeological work database [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie) for Robinstown (Levinge) and environs was undertaken. An excavation of a fulacht fiadh was carried out in the nearby townland of Robinstown (Tyrell). No excavations were carried out on the subject site.

**Table 2. Licenced archaeological work undertaken where archaeology was found in vicinity of subject site (after [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)).**

Author	Licence No.	Summary Report
Miriam Clyne	N/a	<p>1986-28</p> <p>As a condition of planning permission, the area of a proposed extension at St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam, was excavated.</p> <p>The excavation, of eleven weeks' duration, was funded by St Mary's Restoration Fund. An area 7.30m x 8.50m, adjoining both the north wall of the Gothic choir, built c. 1300, and the east wall of a later structure, formerly the Chapter Room, was excavated.</p> <p>A foundation course, built of rough mortared masonry with large stones on the outer faces and a rubble core, was uncovered. This provided a footing for the east wall of the Chapter Room and abutted onto the foundations of the north-west buttress of the Gothic choir which it apparently post-dates. The foundation course was only partially revealed and measured 6.70m long and c. 1.60m wide.</p> <p>An enigmatic feature, consisting of three connecting low dry-stone walls, was revealed close to the eastern and northern boundaries of the site. An irregularly-shaped gravel area was delimited by two of the walls.</p> <p>Thirty-eight articulated human skeletons, complete or partially disturbed, were also found, indicating that it was part of a graveyard. All the skeletons were supine and the orientation was predominantly E-W, with the head to the west. Burial was in unmarked pits and a variety of ages were represented. Skeletons were disturbed by successive burials, and by the construction of the Gothic choir and the stone foundation course, indicating that the graveyard was in use before 1300. Eight of the burials were of later date.</p> <p>The bulk of the finds consisted of potsherds, glass fragments and iron nails. The pottery included a few sherds of 13th-/14th-century, green glazed ware, from the Saintonge area, imported late medieval pottery, imported 17th-century ware, and also a late medieval strap-handle, probably from a cooking pot, which was produced locally. (I am grateful to R. O Floinn and M. Dunlevy for help in identifying the pottery.) The most interesting discoveries were two scallop shells, each with a pair of perforations for attachment to the wearer's apparel. One shell was in situ on a skeleton. Their presence in the graveyard indicates that two of the deceased went on pilgrimage to the shrine of Saint James the Greater at Compostela, in Galicia, north-west Spain. Santiago de Compostela was a major pilgrimage shrine from the 11th century onwards and pilgrims brought back as a memento scallop shells, the emblem of Saint James.</p>
Jim Higgins	N/a	<p>1992:096 Early Christian medieval and post-medieval complex.</p> <p>The dig took place in a field located between Vicar St on one side and the grounds of St Mary's Church of Ireland Cathedral (which is set back some distance from the Galway Rd.) on the other. Before excavation it was obvious that a series of banks and ditches, some low mounds, drains and earthworks were present. A large arc of what was presumed to be an Early Christian ecclesiastical enclosure running from the grounds of the Cathedral in the direction of Tuam Mart was also apparent. There was local knowledge of a feature called Sruan Bride, St Brigid's Stream which was said to connect up with St Jarlath's Well, or Tober Jarlath nearby. Furthermore the local name for the area was An Clam, a name which is suggestive of boards, planks, stakes, sticks, wattles, or a togher. Pottery was also said to have been made in the vicinity as well as at Killaloony nearby.</p>

Excavation along a 2m-wide trench running most of the length of the field produced evidence of a cobbled surface or surfaces over an area of several hundred sq. m. It was cut across in places by a late stone-lined field drain and the 19th-century garden plot to the rear of houses in Vicar St had destroyed some of the cobbling. The cobbled surface had been parched in some places and dug into in others and extended both within and without a thick cashel-like wall which had been substantially robbed out. This enclosing feature had been reduced to a mound of earth and small stones on which only a short segment of the outer facing of large stones survived. The facing was, however, discernable in the field to either side of the excavated area. This large enclosing wall had been robbed out in the late medieval or post-medieval period. The cobbled surface post-dated the robbed out enclosure.

Among the finds made on its surface was a series of horseshoes. Some distance to the south of the robbed out wall was a U-shaped ditch. This was sectioned and it was clear that this too had been cobbled over along its sides and right into the ditch itself.

Running at an angle across the site was a deep V-shaped canalised stream. This had been bridged over in one area for a short distance with lumps of pine, oak and yew. The bridge-like togher may have been robbed out over much of the length of the features. The sides of this stream had been lined for at least part of its length with branches and sticks. Some of these were up to 4m in length and one sample proved to be a log pole of yew with chop-marks at one end. The ditch clearly pre-dated the cobbled layer. There were 3 layers of rough cobbling overlying the V-shaped ditch and its 'bridge' of wood. The ditch produced a complex series of organic layers of bone, wood and portion of a small perforated amber bead. Some of the sticks which lay in the sides of the drain were narrow and wattle-like but only one or two apparently intertwined 'woven' pieces were found. Among the most interesting finds from the V-shaped drain was an enigmatic piece of worked wood of uncertain function. The V-shaped ditch was obviously deliberately cut, possibly on the site of a natural feature and it would seem that this corresponds to the Srufan Bride which runs across the field, underneath houses in Vicar St and has been canalised in modern times beneath the garden of the Health Centre. It continues along the CIE property alongside the railway line in the direction of Tober Jarlath, a well to which there used to be a large pilgrimage until it was blocked up in the 19th century.

The ditch which ran some distance outside the robbed-out boundary of the ecclesiastical enclosure also produced very large quantities of bone. The enclosing feature was unusual in that it was not completely stone-built. The outer face was stone-faced but the core seems to have been of earth and small stones and the inner face was a sloping embankment and was faced with small stones embedded at an angle in the inside face of the feature. The wall may have been robbed out to build the present enclosing wall around the medieval Cathedral.

The cobbled surface would seem to relate to the 13th-century grant of a licence to the Archbishop of Tuam for the holding of a market at Tuam. This market was subsequently moved to The Square in the 17th century. It was clear that the cobbled surface had been in use over a long period and that the ditch outside the enclosure and the V-shaped drain may have had a role in keeping the place clean. Generally the cobbled surface was overlaid by deposits containing much bone. The cobbling in many areas overlay a dark organic layer containing oyster shell and bone and in many areas the undulating ground beneath had been levelled up with boulders and re-deposited boulder clay. Some stone settings, areas of re-deposited yellow daub, depressions and hollows cut across and underlay the cobbled surface. Two small mounds which were also excavated produced 19th-century builders' rubble, clay pipes and worked stone dating to the refurbishment of the Cathedral in the 1860s and 1870s. Beneath these were several much earlier ditches.

Finds included Saintonge pottery – probably of a late type, a lug from a Saintonge chafing dish of 16th/17th century-type and fragments of a somewhat earlier lobed cup of the same fabric. Local copies of imported wares and products of the Killaloe or more local kilns were also found. Lumps of potters clay also suggest that the tradition of pottery being made in the area is correct. Among the later material were Buckley type wares, North Devon Gravel Tempered wares and a variety of local wares with an orange fabric. Some sherds of Spanish olive jars were also found. The subsequent finding of a pottery kiln by Ann Connolly in excavations in High Street, nearby is of interest since a comparison of the post-medieval ceramics from the area can now be made (see below no. 97).

The other finds included quern fragments and a fragment of a possible trough quern, a



		<p>variety of 17th-early 20th-century clay pipes, a pipe clay wig curler, some ridge tile fragments, lumps of stone and mortar from a destroyed building, a group of 6 horseshoes showing a variety of medieval to early modern forms, modern pottery and red brick marbles and some iron slag. Also found were iron staples, nails and washers. An 18th-century cartwheel penny from the Bristol Mint was also found. Large quantities of bone and some oyster shell were recovered from throughout the site.</p> <p>The whole field is extremely rich in archaeological deposits and deserves to be studied in further detail. A carved Romanesque architectural fragment which was found elsewhere in the field has been deposited in the Cathedral for safekeeping. The excavation report is to be published by the Crow's Rock Press, Galway in the near future.</p>
Ann Connolly	N/a	<p>1992:097</p> <p>A watching brief, funded by Galway County Council commenced on 14th October 1992 in Tuam Co. Galway, and continued into 1993. It followed the line of the proposed sewerage pipe through 3 archaeologically-sensitive areas in the town, in advance of the actual pipe laying. For the most part there were no finds of an archaeological nature. The areas highlighted as being sensitive had suffered much disturbance as a result of services installation and land reclamation. In the area immediately north of Gilligans Arch, off High St a post-medieval pottery kiln was uncovered. The kiln was constructed of hand-made red brick, with a small, retaining wall of limestone at its southern end. It survives to a maximum height of 0.65m and measures 3.9m north-south and 1.74m east-west. The proximity of the kiln to the arch and more especially, to the wall on the west side of it, made it impossible to excavate completely, though the east side of the kiln was thoroughly investigated. Excavations revealed the kiln wall was only 200mm thick and there was redeposited clay and stones packed against it on the east side. This suggests the surviving portion of the kiln was built into the old ground surface. Excavation under the kiln show that its northern portion was built directly onto bedrock. The kiln was removed completely, brick by brick, and it is hoped to reconstruct it in the grounds of the Mill Museum, Tuam.</p>
Richard Crumlish	95E0084	<p>This excavation took place as part of a contract along the route of a water pipeline, part of the Tuam Regional Water Supply Scheme. The work was carried out between 26 April and 30 May 1995, by the Archaeological Services Unit, UCG, for Galway County Council. The site consisted of a destroyed enclosure, located in Townparks (1st Division) townland, situated to the north-west of Tuam town, where the proposed pipeline corridor cut through the eastern half of the site. Only the western half of the site was marked on the 1st edition of the 6" OS map. No trace of the monument was visible above ground. Eight trenches were manually opened within the pipeline corridor to investigate the site. Three of these were excavated across the full width of the corridor. A further two trenches were opened across the conjectured line of the enclosing element at its northern and southern extremities. The trenches revealed a semicircular ditch, 2.7-3.1m in width and 1.3-1.6m in depth, with steep sides and a slightly rounded base. The top of the external side of the ditch was located outside the eastern limit of the pipeline corridor in two of the three trenches excavated across the full corridor. The ditch was filled by disturbed material containing modern artefacts, redeposited natural subsoil, clays and loams with some charcoal and bone. The redeposited natural subsoil fill could be the remains of a bank feature, of which very little remained. It was barely visible in two of the trenches, just over 0.2m high, and not visible at all in the other three. In the north-eastern quadrant of the site an entrance feature was uncovered. It measured 2.3m long, 5m wide and over 1.5m high above the base of the ditch on either side. The final three trenches were opened to fully explore this feature. It was orientated east-north-east by west-south-west and its north-north-west side was faced by a number of rocks set in the natural subsoil, into which the entrance feature was cut. The rocks averaged 0.25m x 0.25m in size. A ditch running north-north-east to south-south-west across the interior of the site, along the western limit of the pipeline corridor, was deemed to be of more recent construction. No other features were uncovered within the interior of the site.</p>
Finn Delaney	11E0005	<p>Excavation and monitoring were undertaken on behalf of Galway County Council within the construction footprint of a proposed new road development linking Shop Street to Bishop's Street in Tuam, Co. Galway.</p> <p>Excavation was undertaken in August 2011 at the western end of the new road in order to record the subsurface remains of the protected structure known as Garvey's Mills (RPS 31). Subsurface remains of an industrial mill building were uncovered. An early mill building and mill-race were later subsumed into a larger complex. At a later date a yard was created by extending two culverts below the main mill building and by adding a</p>

culvert to the tail-race of the later mill.

Monitoring of groundworks for the entire road scheme and associated site works was carried out from late July to early November 2011. The groundworks involved the removal of topsoil within the area of the road scheme (to formation level) and the excavation of associated service trenches and site works. The topsoil was removed in all cases to formation level of the road, which was cut into the subsoil. The excavation of the service trenches also cut the subsoil. The enabling works to place the culverts at the eastern and western ends of the route required excavation below bedrock level.

### 4.3 Archaeological artefacts

There are no stray finds recorded in the Topographical Files in the Antiquities Division of the National Museum of Ireland for the townland of Townparks (3<sup>rd</sup> Division)

### 4.4 Cartographic images of the subject site (Figs 6-12)

The Down Survey was a national land survey, managed by Sir William Petty then surgeon-general of the English army. Its purpose was to measure the land that was to be forfeited by Irish Catholics, so that it could be redistributed by the Crown as payment to adventurers and soldiers of the Protestant faith for services rendered. The survey was undertaken in 1656-1658. The Down Survey generated an all-island map, and more detailed maps on a county, barony, and civil parish basis. The owner of the townland of Townparks (3<sup>rd</sup> Division) in 1641 is recorded as John Coffy (Catholic). In 1670 the owner is James Keally (Catholic). The Down Survey name is Tuam-Catrin.



Figure 6. Down Survey map extract showing the townland of Townparks (3<sup>rd</sup> Division).  
(<http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/landowners.php#mc=53.513782,-8.834081&z=14>).



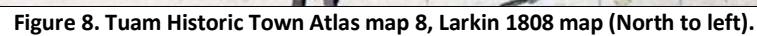
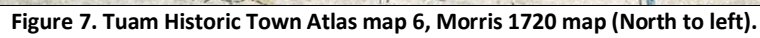






Figure 9. Tuam Historic Town Atlas map 10, Ordnance Survey Fair Plan 1838 (North to top).

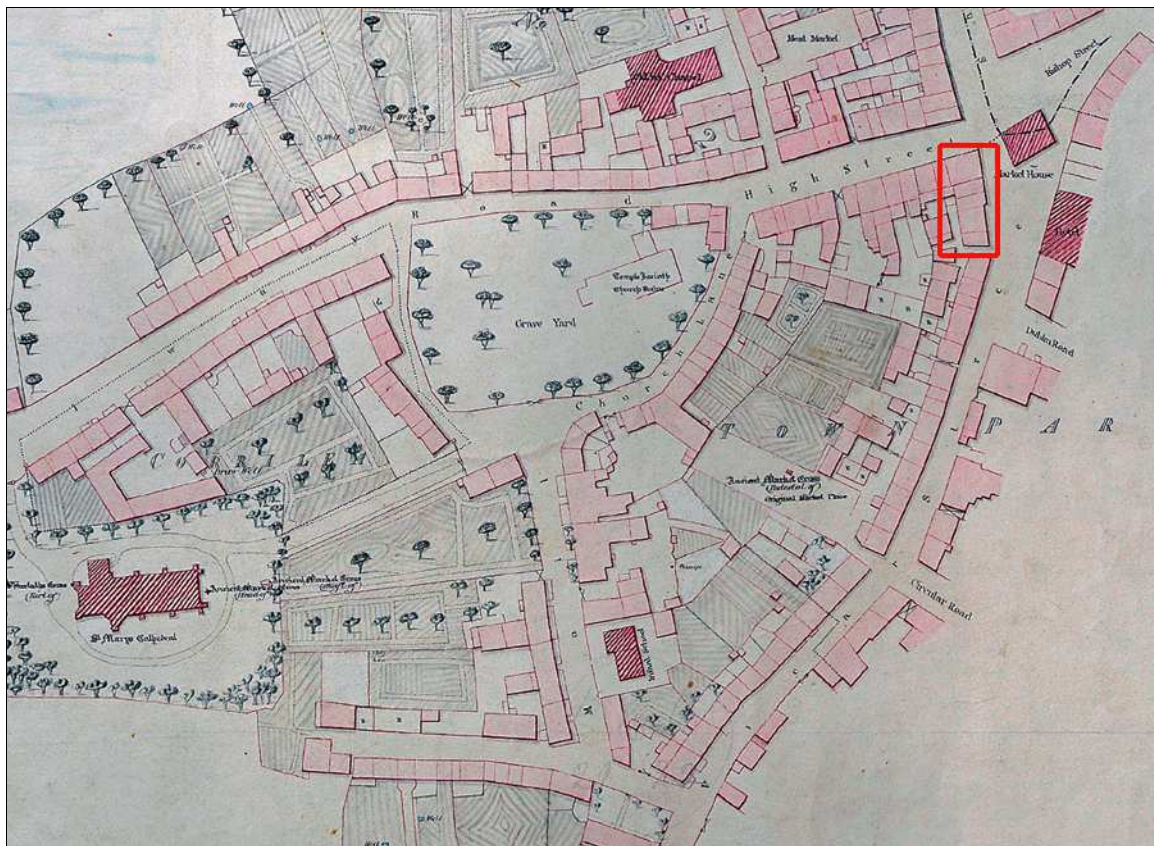


Figure 10. Tuam Historic Town Atlas map 11, 1839 (North to top).



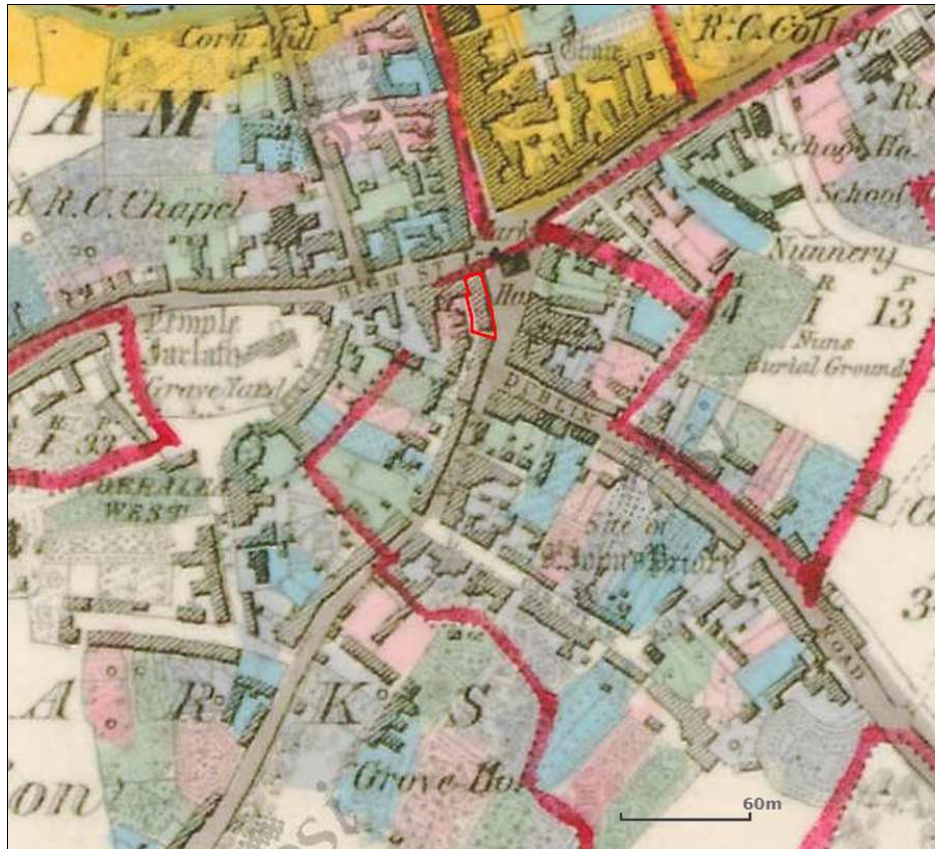


Figure 11. First Edition OS (c. 1839) six-inch map (after [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)). North to top. Subject site in red

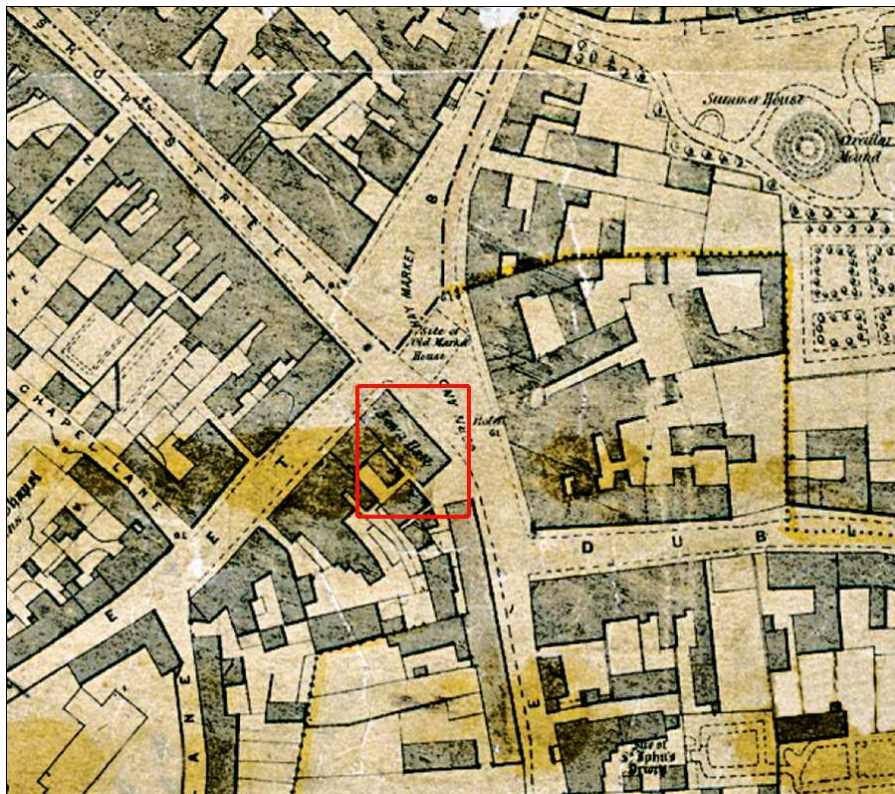


Figure 12. Tuam Historic Town Atlas map 12, John Bourke 1863 (North to top).



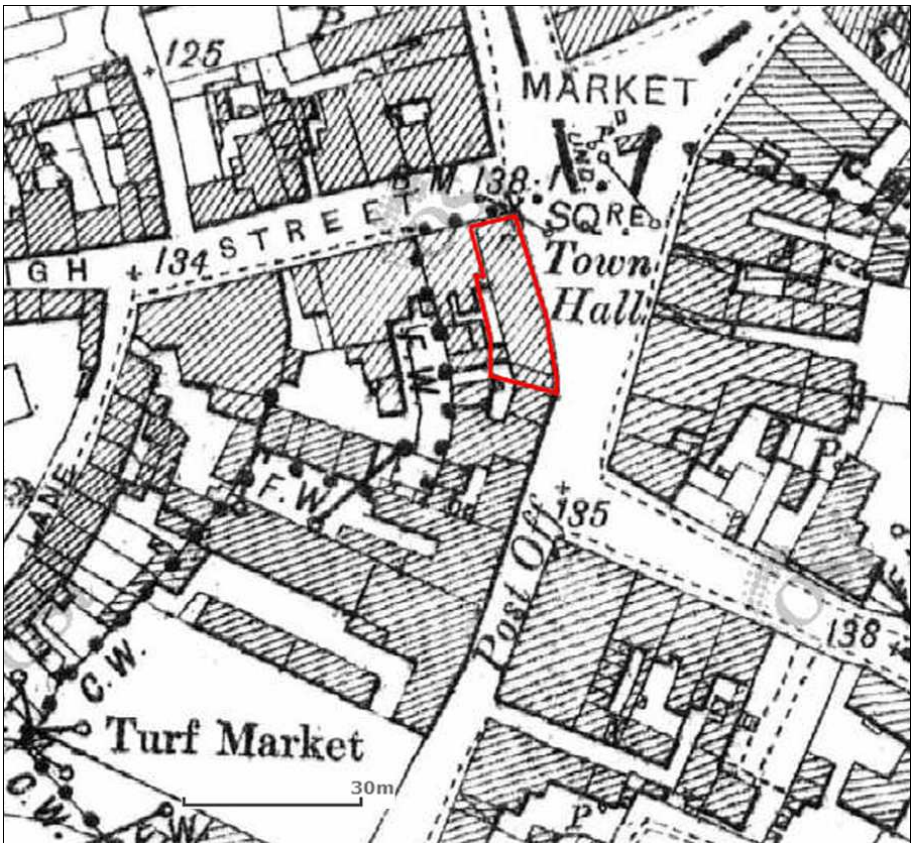


Figure 13. 25-inch OS map (after [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)). North to top. Site outlined in red.

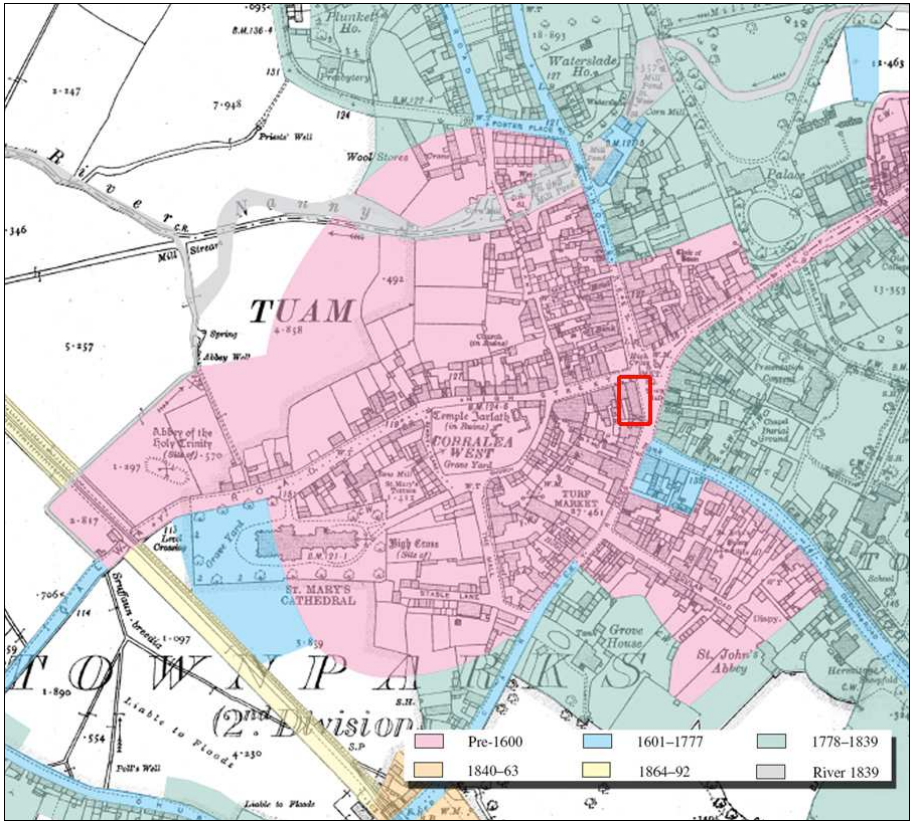


Figure 14. Tuam Historic Town Atlas map 13, Growth of Tuam to 1892 by J. Claffey (North to top). Site outlined in red

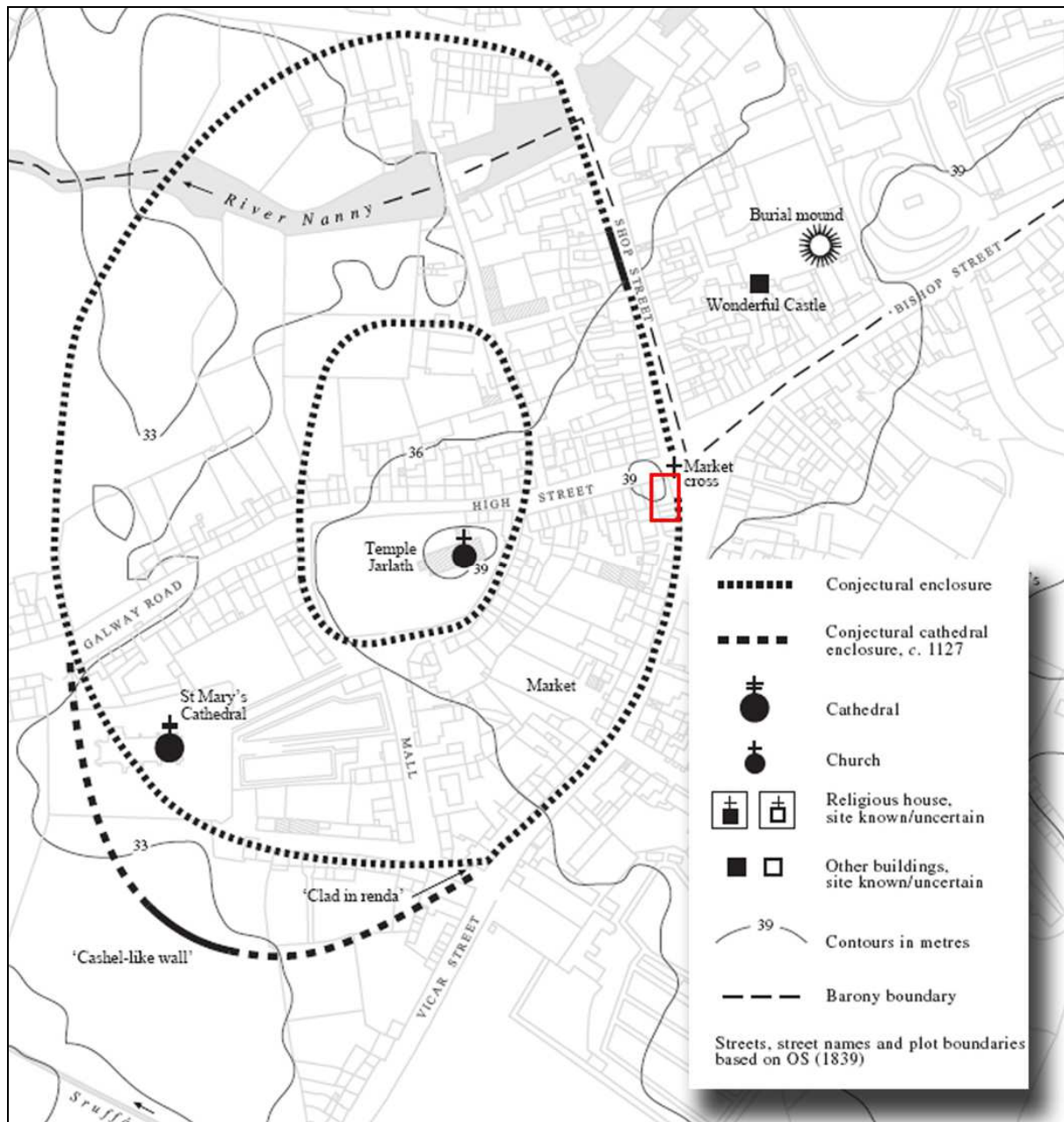


Figure 15. Medieval Tuam from Tuam Historic Town Atlas (Site outlined in red).



## 5. Impact of Proposed Development

It is proposed to refurbish the existing Town Hall. The subject site lies entirely within the townland of Townparks ( 3<sup>rd</sup> Division), and within the Historic Town of Tuam (GA029-199----). Cartographic analysis has shown that there were buildings on the site from at least as early as 1808. Therefore, it is predicted that any groundworks may possibly have a negative impact on potential unrecorded subsurface archaeological remains.

**Table 3. Predicted impacts of the proposed development on archaeology and cultural heritage.**

Predicted Impact No.	Description	Predicted impact without mitigation. Negative/Neutral/Positive
1.	Any groundworks associated with the refurbishment of the Town Hall.* <b>At the moment, no groundworks are proposed.</b>	Negative

Suitable mitigation to alleviate the predicted impacts on the potential archaeology of the subject site has been provided in section 6.

## 6. Conclusions and Suggested Mitigation

No previously unrecorded archaeological features are recorded on the subject site, However, due to its **location** within the historic town of Tuam, the site has the potential to yield archaeological features and/or artefacts subsurface. Suggested mitigation is set out in table 6.1, as per best practice guidance (Dúchas 1999a; 1999b).

**Table 4. Suggested archaeological mitigation measures.**

Mitigation No.	Mitigation	Reason	Mitigates Predicted Impact No.
1.	Should it be necessary to carry out any groundworks (services foundations etc), archaeological monitoring of groundworks should be carried out under licence from the National Monuments Service.	Location of the development within the historic town of Tuam.	1

Should archaeology be subsequently discovered *The Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* document (Dúchas 1999a, 24-25) states that, ‘When considering requests for authorisation or approval to undertake development which would involve the removal of archaeological sites and monuments (or portions of such) or before proposing to carry out such development, relevant bodies and authorities should satisfy themselves that the development (i) cannot be relocated; (ii) cannot be re-designed to avoid removal of the site or monument (or portions of such); (iii) is really necessary’, and it is on this basis that further mitigation may be required.

It is very important to note that it is the National Monuments Service (details below section 7) in consultation with the local authority, who will formulate and ratify any archaeological mitigation, should it be required, and this document can only make suggestions and report on the desk-top assessment and site inspection carried out. Archaeological mitigation may be recommended by the NMS and/or the local authority, which has not been suggested above.

While this impact assessment has reduced the likelihood of encountering unrecorded archaeological remains it cannot totally eliminate the risk and mitigation has been suggested to further reduce this

risk. Therefore, the attention of the client, client agents and the developer is drawn to the relevant portions of the National Monuments Acts (1930–2014) which describes the responsibility of the site owners and procedures to report the finding of archaeological items, if any should be discovered during construction works, to the National Museum of Ireland and the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht. This legislation also outlines the developer's obligation to facilitate and fund all archaeological works that may be considered necessary by the National Monuments Service and/or the National Museum of Ireland in respect of development proposals. The state's policy in relation to the archaeological heritage is available at:

<https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/framework-and-principles-for-protection-of-archaeological-heritage.pdf>

<https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/excavation-policy-and-guidelines.pdf>

## 7. Non-Technical Summary

### 7.1 Scope of study

This is a desktop study to assess the potential impact of a proposed development on the potential archaeological significance of the subject site, namely the Town Hall at Townparks (3<sup>rd</sup> Division) townland, Tuam, County Galway.

### 7.2 Method of study

A desktop study was undertaken which consulted all immediately available material relating to the site as listed in the project references.

### 7.3 Existing environment

The subject site is the Town Hall building in Tuam.

### 7.4 Impacts of proposed development

Proposed development on the subject site has the potential to have a negative impact on the potential subsurface archaeology of the site, should groundworks take place.

### 7.5 Conclusions and suggested mitigation

Mitigation measures have been suggested (section 6). It is the remit of the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, however, to legally recommend any one or a combination of these mitigation measures and perhaps to make recommendations that have not been suggested above. These recommendations may be sent directly to the applicant or more usually through the local authority in question.

## 7.6 Further Information & Inquiries

Any enquiries in relation to archaeological mitigation on the proposed development, should it be required, may be directed to:

Archaeological Planning and Licencing Unit,  
National Monuments Service,  
Custom House,  
Dept of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage,  
Dublin 1.  
Phone: 01-8883177

Or through the local authority's archaeologist, where one is employed.

## 8. Signing-Off Statement

**Archaeological Firm:** ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

**Writer(s):** Frank Coyne BA MIAI,  
32 Nicholas St,  
King's Island,  
Limerick.

**Client:** Galway County Council,  
C/o ACP (Architectural Conservation Professionals),  
Cappanuke,  
Cappamore,  
Co. Limerick

**Signed:**



for ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

**Report Status:** Final

**Dated:** 9 December 2021

## 9. Project References

*The following is a list of items consulted during the project. They may not all be cited directly in the text.*

**1962** *Geological Map of Ireland*. Dublin: Geological Survey of Ireland.

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**Bennett, I. Various dates** *Excavations*. Bray: Wordwell [see [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)]

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**Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2010** *World Heritage – Ireland, A country of rich heritage and culture*. Dublin: Environment, heritage and local government.

**Dept of Housing, Planning and Local Government 2018** *Guidelines for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment*. Dublin: Government of Ireland.

**Dúchas 1999a** *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*. Dublin: Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands.

**Dúchas 1999b** *Guidelines for Archaeological Excavation*. Dublin: Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands.

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**Share, B. (2017)** *Royal Canal*. In: B. Lawlor, ed. *The Encyclopaedia of Ireland*. Dublin: Gill & MacMillan, pp 945.

Websites

[www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)

[www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie)

[www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie) [NIAH]

[www.digitalcollections.tcd.ie](http://www.digitalcollections.tcd.ie)

[www.downsurvey.tcd.ie](http://www.downsurvey.tcd.ie)

[www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)

[www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie)

[www.iai.ie](http://www.iai.ie)

[www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie)

[www.myplan.ie](http://www.myplan.ie)

[www.myplan.ie](http://www.myplan.ie)

[www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie)

[www.osi.ie](http://www.osi.ie)

All last accessed 5 December 2021.

## Annex

### 1. Legislation and regulation protecting the archaeological heritage resource

#### PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

The cultural heritage in Ireland is safeguarded through national and international policy designed to secure the protection of the cultural heritage resource to the fullest possible extent (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands 1999, 35). This is undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention), ratified by Ireland in 1997.

#### THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

The National Monuments Act 1930 to 2014 (as amended) 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.

#### OWNERSHIP AND GUARDIANSHIP OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS

The Minister may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian 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.

#### REGISTER OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS

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. All registered monuments are included in the Record of Monuments and Places.

#### PRESERVATION ORDERS AND TEMPORARY PRESERVATION ORDERS

Sites deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

#### RECORD OF MONUMENTS AND PLACES

Section 12(1) of the 1994 Act requires the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (now the Minister for the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs) 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. All recorded monuments on the proposed development site are represented on the accompanying maps. Section 12(3) of the 1994 Act provides that ‘where the owner or occupier (other than the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) of a monument or place included in the Record, or any other person, proposes 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 in writing to the Minister of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands to carry out work and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister, commence the work until two months after the giving of notice’. Under the National Monuments



(Amendment) Act 2004, anyone who demolishes or in any way interferes with a recorded site is liable to a fine not exceeding €3,000 or imprisonment for up to 6 months. On summary conviction and on conviction of indictment, a fine not exceeding €10,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years is the penalty. In addition, they are liable for costs for the repair of the damage caused. In addition to this, under the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989, Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) are required for various classes and sizes of development project to assess the impact the proposed development will have on the existing environment, which includes the cultural, archaeological and built heritage resources. These document's recommendations are typically incorporated into the conditions under which the proposed development must proceed, and thus offer an additional layer of protection for monuments which have not been listed on the RMP.

#### THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000

Under planning legislation, each local authority is obliged to draw up a Development Plan setting out their aims and policies with regard to the growth of the area over a five-year period. They cover a range of issues including archaeology and built heritage, setting out their policies and objectives with regard to the protection and enhancement of both. These policies can vary from county to county. The Planning and Development Act 2000 recognises that proper planning and sustainable development includes the protection of the archaeological heritage. Conditions relating to archaeology may be attached to individual planning permissions. Specific objectives are also outlined within the County Development Plans of counties and more specific local area plans which are published from time to time.

#### THE UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY RESOURCE (MARINE, LACUSTRINE, AND RIVERINE ENVIRONMENTS)

These environments all have the potential to impact on known or potential underwater cultural heritage, including shipwrecks. The Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht is a statutory consultee under a number of Acts including the Foreshore Acts 1933 - 2011, the Dumping at Sea Act 1996, (and various amendments), various fisheries acts relating to aquaculture and Petroleum and the Other Minerals Development Act, 1960 (as amended 1990). This is in addition to the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the associated Planning and

Development Regulations. Developments, whether they are large infrastructural projects or smaller localised developments, can have the potential to impact underwater cultural heritage.

As a statutory consultee, the National Monuments Service's Underwater Archaeology Unit (on behalf of the Minister) assesses applications in relation to potential development impacts and, as appropriate, recommendations are forwarded to the relevant planning authority requesting that archaeological mitigation measures be attached as conditions on the grant of a planning permission, licence or permit to ensure the protection of the underwater cultural heritage.

The type of archaeological mitigation recommended will vary depending on the scale and impact of the development and the archaeological potential of the location. It may include but is not limited to the following: pre-development desktop assessments, archaeological dive surveys; geophysical surveys; wading and metal detection surveys; underwater archaeological assessment and pre-development archaeological testing.

Archaeological excavation or archaeological monitoring during the course of the proposed works may also be required where it is known that archaeology is present or likely to be present and when new discoveries are made. Where there are known sites or areas of high archaeological potential, however, avoidance and/or preservation in situ may be the preferred option. In this regard, planning applicants are required to engage the services of a suitably qualified and suitably experienced private sector archaeologist or archaeological company to implement the archaeological recommendations relating to a planning application or as a condition of any planning permission granted.

If a development is planned for an area of reclaimed land or in a marine, riverine or lacustrine environment, it is advisable that you first consult the Wreck Viewer (WIID) and downloadable list of wrecks to ensure that the developer/contractor is aware of the archaeological potential of the area where the proposed development is to be located, i.e. at the site of a known or potential wreck site. If a proposed development is located in an area where wrecks are known to exist or are thought to be located, then the developer should contact the National Monuments Service seeking advice with regard to the appropriate course of action so as to

ensure wrecks or associated wreck material are not negatively impacted. Additionally, the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) should also be consulted to see if the proposed development is located near to or at a Recorded Monument, National Monument or World Heritage Site. Further information can be obtained from the Archaeology and the Planning Process section of this website.

#### Note on Developments in Areas of Reclaimed Land

Areas along river channels, estuaries, lake shores and large swathes of the coastline have been reclaimed over the centuries. These areas have potential to retain the remains of vessels that were lost, abandoned or wrecked on ancient seabed, shorelines or earlier water courses prior to the reclamation works being carried out. Other features of archaeological importance may survive in areas of reclaimed land, such as jetties, quay structures, tidal mills and fish traps. In areas of reclaimed land where there is potential to find shipwrecks, associated artefacts and other site types there will be a need for an appropriate level of archaeological assessment in advance of proposed developments.

#### The Protection of Wrecks under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014

The National Monuments Service Wreck Viewer displays data relating to wrecks and is made available here for the information of interested parties. It is important to note that the wreck viewer displays only wrecks whose locations are known; there are a large number of wrecks recorded in the Wreck Inventory of Ireland Database (WIID) that do not have precise locations. Records for these can be downloaded from the "Wreck Data Download" link on the banner/header of the wreck viewer. The database also includes records of the wrecks of aircraft where these have come to our attention. The inclusion of wrecks on this website does not constitute a statement in regard to any legal protection which may apply in any particular case. It is intended that this data will be of assistance to all marine environment researchers and stakeholders and those interested in or charged with protecting underwater cultural heritage, including anyone planning development in the marine, lacustrine or riverine environments.

#### Legislation pertaining to wrecks

There is robust legislation in place to protect wrecks and archaeological objects in Ireland's territorial waters, in the intertidal zone and within the inland waterways. Section 3 of the National

Monuments (Amendment) Act 1987 is the primary piece of legislation for the protection of wrecks over 100 years old and archaeological objects underwater irrespective of age. Wrecks that are less than 100 years old and archaeological objects or the potential location of such a wreck or archaeological object can also be protected under Section 3 of the 1987 (Amendment) Act; An underwater heritage order can be placed on a wreck or object if considered to be of sufficient historical, archaeological or artistic importance to merit such protection. In 1995 the wreck of RMS Lusitania, torpedoed in 1915 by German submarine U-20 off the Cork coast, was protected under the relevant provisions of the Act, though it was less than 100 years old at the time.

#### Diving, Survey and Salvage

Section 3 (4) of the 1987 Act provides that a person shall not dive on, damage, or generally interfere with, any wreck which is more than one hundred years old or an archaeological object which is lying on, in or under the sea bed or on or in land covered by water except in accordance with a licence issued by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht under Section 3 (5) of the Act. A licence is also needed under the same provisions of the Act to survey a wreck or archaeological object from a wreck site that is over 100 years old or one that is protected by underwater heritage order. Therefore, a licence is required to dive, interfere with or survey any protected wreck site or for deliberate searches for underwater archaeological objects. The Minister may, at her discretion, grant or refuse to grant a licence and may make a licence subject to such conditions as she thinks fit and which are specified in the licence. Application forms for dive/survey licenses can be downloaded from <https://www.archaeology.ie/publications-forms-legislation/forms> or by requesting an application form from the Licensing Section, National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, Custom House, Dublin 1.

#### Discovery obligations in relation to a wreck or artefact

Section 3 (6) of the 1987 Act (as amended) also provides that a person finding a wreck over 100 years old must within four days make a report of the find to either the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht or the Garda Síochána. Section 3 (6) of the 1987 Act (as amended) also provides that a person finding an archaeological object which is lying on, in or under the sea bed or on or in land covered by water must within four days make a report of the find to the Director of the

National Museum of Ireland. As clarified in a recent High Court judgement in relation to the wreck of the Lusitania (Judge Herbert, 2005), a wreck can equally be considered to be an archaeological object within the meaning of the act.

#### Merchant Shipping (salvage and wreck) Act 1993

It is a statutory obligation under the Merchant Shipping (Salvage and Wreck) Act 1993 that all material, including objects, recovered from any wreck or wreck material, including objects, from the sea shall be declared to the relevant Receiver of Wreck. The Receiver will then make enquiries with a view to establishing the ownership of the wreck or wreck-related material. In the absence of a known owner, the Director of the National Museum of Ireland can claim salvaged wreck material on behalf of the State.

#### Archaeological excavation and/or use of detection devices in relation to the underwater resource

Archaeological excavation and/or the use of detection devices such as metal detectors to search for archaeological objects on archaeological sites including protected wrecks is regulated under Section 26 of the 1930 National Monuments Act and Section 2 of the 1987 National Monuments (Amendment) Act. Consents for the use of hand-held metal detectors on protected wreck sites or for the purpose of searching for archaeological objects are only issued when they form part of a defined archaeological research project or are required for an archaeological impact assessment for planning related cases. Applications for excavation licenses and consents for use of detection devices are assessed by designated officers within the National Monuments Service.

#### THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE IN CAVES

Natural caves have the potential to yield archaeological deposits and artefacts. The study area has a very low potential to contain caves with archaeological potential though its underlying geology, limestone is conducive to the possibility of caves. Caves been used by people ever since the first settlers arrived in Ireland some 10,000 years ago (8,000 BC) and have served a wide variety of purposes: as places of burial, for the performance of ritual, as habitations or shelter for long- and short-term periods, for storage and as hiding places. The NMS and NMI have produced an

advice leaflet entitled *Advice to the Public on the archaeological potential of caves* (2014).<sup>1</sup>

#### NOTE

Attention is also drawn to two current policy documents in regard to the archaeological heritage in the Republic of Ireland, available at: <https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/framework-and-principles-for-protection-of-archaeological-heritage.pdf>;

<https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/excavation-policy-and-guidelines.pdf>.

Please note that any archaeological/cultural heritage report can only report on the facts discovered during the project and make suggestions on suitable archaeological mitigation should it be required. It is the remit of the National Monuments Service, sometimes through the Local Authority, to legally recommend archaeological mitigation on a site-by-site basis, which may differ from the mitigation suggested.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/NMS%20Caves%20Leaflet%20lo-res.pdf>.



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