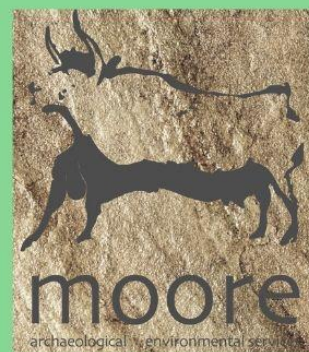

Prepared for
Galway County Council

Presented on
8th July 2022



CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Prepared by
Declan Moore

Our Reference 22076

Your Reference NA

PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT COSMONA, LOUGHREA, CO. GALWAY

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Revision History

Revision Reference	Date Issued	Issued To
22076 Cosmona Loughrea HD CHA	8 th July 2022	Client for review

Report prepared by: Declan Moore

Archaeological Consultant, Moore Group

Purpose

This report describes the results of a cultural heritage desktop and walkover assessment for a proposed residential development at Cosmona, Loughrea, Co. Galway. The results, conclusions and recommendations contained within this report are based on information available at the time of its preparation. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that all relevant data has been collated, the author and Moore Group accept no responsibility for omissions and/or inconsistencies that may result from information becoming available after the reports completion. Moore Group accepts no responsibility or liability for any use that is made of this document other than by the Client for the purposes for which it was originally commissioned and prepared.

Filename: 22076 Cosmona Loughrea HD CHA

Non-Technical Summary

Moore Group was commissioned by Galway County Council to carry out a cultural heritage impact assessment of a proposed residential development at Cosmona Loughrea Co Galway. The site is greenfield and is 2.5 hectares. The site is near the recorded monument GA 105 066.

This study aims to assess the baseline archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage environment, to evaluate the likely impacts that the proposed development will have on this environment and to suggest mitigation measures, in accordance with the policies of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 and best practise guidelines, and, where appropriate, recommend mitigation measures to ameliorate these impacts. Following on from this, the residual impact that the proposed scheme will have on the baseline environment is evaluated and identified.

Given the proposed scale of groundworks it is proposed that the site be the subject to a programme of archaeological testing.

If the above recommendations are fully implemented the residual impacts of the proposed development on the local archaeological resource would be negligible.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) and the South Dublin County Council Heritage Officer.

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Abbreviations

AAP	Area of Archaeological Potential
ACA	Architectural Conservation Areas
ASI	Archaeological Survey of Ireland
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
DLHG	Demesne Landscapes and Historic Gardens
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
NMI	National Museum of Ireland
OSI	Ordnance Survey Ireland
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
RPS	Record of Protected Structures
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record

Coordinate System

All GPS coordinates given in this report are in Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM).

1 Introduction

Moore Group was commissioned by Henchion-Reuter Architects on behalf of Galway County Council to carry out a cultural heritage impact assessment of a proposed residential development at Cosmona, Loughrea, Co. Galway.

1.1 Scope of Work

This study aims to assess the baseline archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage environment (hereafter referred to as cultural heritage environment or cultural heritage resource), to evaluate the potential or likely impacts that the proposed development will have on this environment and, where appropriate, to suggest mitigation measures to ameliorate potential impacts, in accordance with the policies of:

- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- The National Monuments Acts (as amended).
- Galway County Development Plan; and
- Best practice guidelines.

Following on from this, the residual impact that the proposed scheme will have on the baseline environment is identified and evaluated.

For the purposes of this report the definition of “cultural heritage” is taken broadly from the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972, which considers the following to be “cultural heritage”:

- Tangible cultural heritage.
- movable cultural heritage (artefacts).
- immovable cultural heritage (monuments, archaeological sites, etc).
- underwater cultural heritage (shipwrecks, underwater ruins, and cities); and
- Intangible cultural heritage (oral traditions, folklore etc).

This impact assessment addresses Cultural Heritage under the two headings of archaeology and architectural/built heritage.

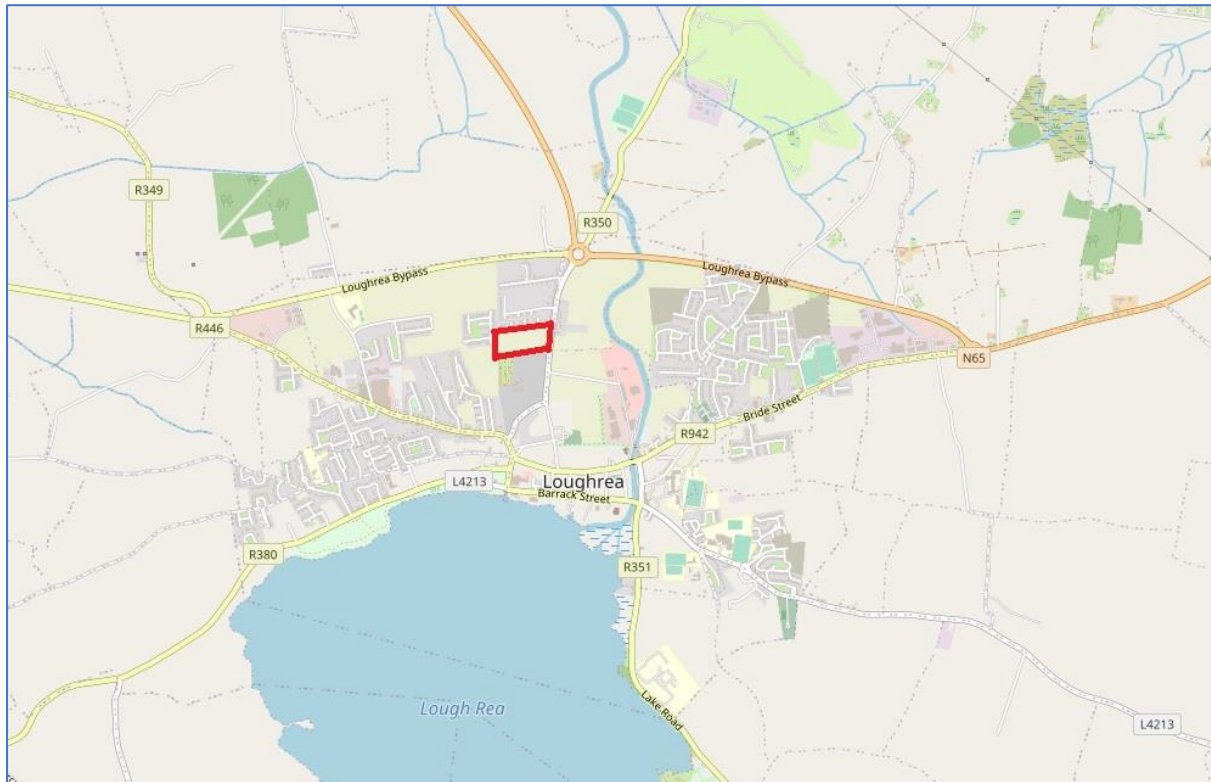


Figure 1 OpenStreetMap showing site location © OpenStreetMap contributors.

1.2 Methodology

The methodology used in the preparation of this assessment is broadly based on guidance provided in the National Roads Authority's (NRA) Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impacts on National Road Schemes (NRA 2005a), and Guidelines for the Assessment of Architectural Heritage Impacts on National Road Schemes (NRA 2005b) (the 'NRA Guidelines').

1.2.1 Terms and Definitions

Cultural Heritage

The phrase 'cultural heritage' is a generic term used to identify a multitude of cultural, archaeological, and architectural sites and monuments. The term 'cultural heritage', in Environmental Impact Statement compliance with Section 2(1) of the Heritage Act (1995), is used throughout this report in relation to archaeological objects, features, monuments and landscapes as well as all structures and buildings which are considered to have historical, archaeological, artistic, engineering, scientific, social or technical significance/merit.

Record of Monuments and Places

A feature recorded in the 'Record of Monuments and Places' (RMP) refers to a recorded archaeological site that is granted statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1930-2004. The RMP is the most widely applying provision of the National Monuments Acts. It comprises a list of recorded monuments and places (resulting from the Archaeological Survey of Ireland [ASI]) and accompanying maps on which such monuments and places are shown for each county. The information contained within the RMP is derived from the earlier non-statutory Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). However some entries were not transferred to the statutory record as they refer to features that on inspection by

the Archaeological Survey were found not to merit inclusion in that record or could not be located with sufficient accuracy to be included. Such sites however remain part of the SMR. The record is a dynamic one and is updated to take account of on-going research.

When reference is made to the distance between an RMP and the proposed development site, this relates to the minimal distance separating the site from the known edge of the RMP. Where the edge of the RMP is not precisely known, the distance relates to that which separates the site from the boundary of the RMP zone of archaeological potential as represented on the respective RMP map; where this is applied, it is stated accordingly.

Sites and Monuments Record

The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) is an inventory of the known archaeological monuments in the State. There are more than 150,800 records in the database and over 138,800 of these relate to archaeological monuments.

An 'area of archaeological potential' refers to an area of ground that is deemed to constitute one where archaeological sites, features or objects may be present in consequence of location, association with identified/recorded archaeological sites and/or identifiable characteristics.

Register of Historic Monuments

Section 5 of the 1987 National Monuments Act states that the Minister is required 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 in the Register without the permission of the Minister is illegal, and two months' notice in writing is required prior to any work being undertaken on or in the vicinity of a registered monument. This list was largely replaced by the Record of Monuments and Places following the 1994 Amendment Act. No registered Historic Monuments were identified.

1.2.2 Desktop Assessment

All known cultural heritage sites were reviewed on the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) along with aerial photography and Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) mapping. Sites mapped included the following:

- UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the tentative list of candidate sites;
- National Monuments, be they in the ownership or guardianship of the State, in the ownership of a local authority or monuments under Preservation Orders.
- Record of Monuments & Places (RMP) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) from www.archaeology.ie.
- Records of Protected Structures from Galway County Council.
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) for Co. Galway; and
- Demesnes Landscapes and Historic Gardens indicated on the OSI First Edition Mapping.

All townlands located within 2km of the PDA were listed and cross referenced with:

- National Monuments in State Care, a list for Co. Galway available from www.archaeology.ie.
- Preservation Orders, a list available from the National Monuments Service; and

The baseline historical research included a search of the British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography (www.biab.ac.uk). The National Library of Ireland's catalogue (<http://catalogue.nli.ie/>) was also consulted. Other sources consulted include the Ordnance Survey Records for the area, www.duchas.ie, www.heritagemaps.ie and other publications (see References).

The Galway County Development Plan 2015-2022, the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 and the Loughrea Local Area Plan 2012-2018 were reviewed to appreciate the areas specific heritage policies and objectives that protect and promote the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage of the region. This evaluation was carried out with due regard to these policies and other relevant information contained within the plans.

To assess the potential impact of the proposal the following sources were also consulted or reviewed:

- Excavations Bulletin.
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland.
- Cartographic Sources.
- Toponyms.
- Aerial photographs.
- Published archaeological inventories.
- Documentary Sources: several literary references were consulted.

1.3 Description of Project

The development will comprise a residential development consisting of 56 new housing units, comprising of: including 44 no. houses and 12 no. apartments, comprising of:

- a) 44 no. houses, including
 - 16 no. 2 bedroom houses
 - 25 no. 3 bedroom houses
 - 2 no. 4 bedroom houses
 - 1 no. 5 bedroom house
- b) 12 no. apartments, including
 - 6 no. 1 bedroom apartments
 - 6 no. 2 bedroom apartments
- c) Varied boundary treatments and landscaping works;
- d) All ancillary site development works and site services necessary to facilitate the proposed development, including an I.W. pumping station and parking for the existing graveyard adjacent to the west of the site adjacent to a Burial Ground which is a Protected Structure 323 NIAH 30337003 Carmelite Monastery

. The residential development will provide for 56no. residential units The development will also include car, cycle parking spaces, bins storage and plant areas. It incorporates vehicular, pedestrian and cyclist and associated site development works, open spaces, landscaping, boundary treatment and service provisions (including ESB substations).

Figure 2 Proposed site layout.



2 Existing Environment

2.1 Location Details

The proposed development area (PDA) is at Cosmona, Loughrea, Co. Galway

Table 1 Location details

County	Galway)
Townland	Cosmona
Road	West of Gallows Hill, R350
OS Sheet number (s)	DU022 (sheet 3328)
Archaeological Monuments	The Zone of Archaeological Potential for GA105-066----, a burial ground intersects the PDA
Architectural Sites	None within PDA
NIAH Garden Survey	None within the vicinity
ITM	561967/717227 (centred on)

2.2 Archaeological, Architectural and Historical Background

2.2.1 Loughrea History General

Loughrea is situated along the northern shore of Lough Rea and derives its name from 'Baile Locha Riach', the 'town of the grey lake'. The town is regarded as dating from 1236, when Loughrea Castle was reputed to have been built by the Anglo-Norman, Richard de Burgo. The position of the castle, which is referred to in the Annals of Clonmacnoise has not been determined, but it is conjectured that it was on the south side of Barrack Street (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 143). This conjecture is based on references to 'Castle Garden' and 'Castle Lane' in the 1791 Map of Loughrea. In 1585 a county gaol was established in part of the castle and remained in use until the construction of a gaol in Galway in 1686.

The town was fortified due to its strategic location on the approach to Galway city. No documentary references to town defences are recorded before 1574 when the town is described as well trenched and having an unfinished wall. The defence enclosed a rectangular area still defined today by a watercourse, which is the remains of a medieval water filled fosse. The wall mirrored the fosse and existed on three sides with the lake forming a natural barrier in the S. It originally had three gates- one at the W end of Dunkellin Street, one at the E end of Main Street and the third, which still survives, on Barrack Street. The town walls may never have been much more than earthen banks with wooden palisades.

The medieval town centre is within the area enclosed by the "Walk" to the north, by the St. Cleran's River to the east, by the lake to the south and by the Fairgreen to the west. The only remaining buildings from medieval times are St. Brigid's Church in Caherwalter, the Town Gate and the Carmelite Abbey and Graveyard. The medieval town core is centred on Dunkellin Street and Main Street that connected the east and west gates. Burgage type properties extend from this axis with perpendicular lanes for access. A strong ecclesiastical presence is still evident within the town.

The historic core is surrounded by an extensive network of water related infrastructure of the town of Loughrea, with canalised river, culverts, millrace, and sluices, partly following the line of medieval defences.

2.2.1.1 Loughrea, extract from Lewis's Topographical Dictionary of Ireland 1837

'LOUGHREA, a market and post-town, and a parish, in the barony of LOUGHREA, county of GALWAY, and province of CONNAUGHT, 18 miles (E. by S.) from Galway, and 86 ½ (W. by S.) from Dublin; containing 7876 inhabitants, of which number, 6268 are in the town and suburbs. This place, which is situated on the shore of Lough Rea, was chiefly remarkable for its monastery, founded by Richard de Burgh, about the year 1300, for Carmelites or White friars; after the dissolution it was granted to Richard, Earl of Clanricarde, ancestor of the present proprietor. A castle was erected here by the Earl of Ulster at an early period, and the town, from its situation in the approach to Galway, was deemed of so much importance that it was fortified. It at present consists of several streets, and contains 1229 houses, of which many are neat and well built. There is a promenade called the Mall, which is much frequented, and the neighbourhood abounds with pleasingly diversified scenery. The Carmelite monastery, originally founded in 1300 by Richard de Burgh, Earl of Ulster, has, notwithstanding the alienation of its revenues at the dissolution, still preserved a regular succession of members. In consequence of the dilapidated state of the buildings, a chapel and a dwelling-house adjoining it were erected in 1785, of which the former was rebuilt on a more extensive scale in 1816, and the latter in 1829, under the superintendence of the prior, the Rev. Mr. Gannon, at an expense of £4000 (including both), defrayed partly from the funds of the establishment and partly by subscription, to which the Clanricarde family, on whose estate the monastery is situated, liberally contributed. A convent for nuns of the same order was founded about

the year 1680, and removed to its present site in 1829, when the building, including a chapel, was erected under the direction of the Prior of the abbey, at a cost of £5000, entirely defrayed from the funds of the nunnery; there are at present 18 sisters in the convent, chiefly young ladies. There was anciently an hospital for lepers in the town, but little of its history is recorded, and even the site of it is unknown. On the summit of Monument Hill, near the town, is a circular enclosure in which are seven stones, five still standing erect, and two lying on the ground; in the centre is a small tumulus of earth, and near the base of the hill are vestiges of a circular entrenchment, within which are the remains of an ancient cromlech.'

2.2.2 Archaeological Heritage

2.2.2.1 World Heritage Sites

Although not formally recognised in Irish legislation, impacts on World Heritage Sites will nonetheless be a material consideration for developments in their wider vicinity.

There are no World Heritage Sites within 10km of the study area.

2.2.2.2 National Monuments in State Care, Guardianship or under Protection Order

On a national level, the highest degree of protection granted to archaeological monuments are those afforded National Monument status, which are protected under the National Monuments Act of 1930 and its various amendments. These are the pre-eminent archaeological sites in Ireland and fall into several categories including:

- Sites that are in the ownership or guardianship of the state.
- Monuments that are the subject of Preservation Orders.
- Monuments in the ownership of a local authority; and
- Walled towns.

Generally National Monuments in state care are numbered amongst the best preserved and most impressive monuments in the country.

There are no relevant monuments in the vicinity of the subject site.

2.2.2.3 Archaeological Survey Database and record of Monuments and Places

The legislation that affords protection to the archaeology of Ireland has seen several amendments since the first National Monuments Act of 1930 and there is a legacy of several different registers and associated terminology. The following sections contain information relating to the Register of Historic Monuments (RHM), the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Archaeological Survey Database (ASD).

The most up-to-date record of archaeological monuments, the Archaeological Survey Database (ASD), is available for viewing and download on the www.archaeology.ie website. This record is continually revised and indicates several additional sites that do not feature in the RMP. The National Monuments Service also makes available SMR Zones of Notification on the website.

Archaeological monuments listed in the ASD that are in the vicinity of the proposed development are presented in Table 2. Distances indicated are from the point data, made available in the ASD, to the site boundary.

There are 2 recorded archaeological monuments listed in the ASD that are located within the immediate vicinity of the PDA. The monuments are as follows:

Table 2 Terenure and environs

SMR No	Class	Townland	Distance
GA105-066----	Burial Ground	Cosmona	ZAP intersects subject site
GA105-069----	Mass Rock	Cosmona	150m to south

GA105-066----

Class: Burial ground

Townland: Cosmona

Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes

Description: The Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) is in the process of providing information on all monuments on The Historic Environment Viewer (HEV). Currently the information for this record has not been uploaded.

GA105-069----

Class: Mass Rock

Townland: Cosmona

Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes

Description: The Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) is in the process of providing information on all monuments on The Historic Environment Viewer (HEV). Currently the information for this record has not been uploaded.

'This site is situated on Private Land and was not accessible. The Mass Rock is situated along a present-day boundary wall to the Carmelite Abbey in Loughrea. The rock would have originally been situated within a field known locally as The Rockies but the modern-day boundary was moved when some of the land was sold for houses and to ensure that the Nuns had a private garden' (retrieved from www.findamassrock.com/copy-of-county-galway3-1, 8th July 2022).



Figure 3 Extract from HEV showing PDA and local recorded monuments/structures.

2.2.2.4 Previous Archaeological Fieldwork

The Excavation Bulletin is both a published annual directory and an online database that provides summary accounts of all the excavations carried out in Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1970 to 2012. The database gives access to almost 15,000 reports and can be browsed or searched using multiple fields, including Year, County, Site Name, Site Type, Grid Reference, Licence No., Sites and Monuments Record No. and Author. Similarly, the National Roads Authority (NRA) archaeological database (<http://archaeology.nra.ie>) contains a description of the results of excavations carried out in advance of various road schemes. In general, the database contains information on sites for which final excavation reports have been received. The records in the vicinity of the proposed works are listed below:

Licence number: Ministerial Consent C000921; E005037

Distance from subject site: 440m to the south

County: Galway Site name: Dolphin Street, Loughrea

Sites and Monuments Record No.: GA105-150

Author: Anne Carey

Site type: Within Zone of Notification for medieval town

ITM: E 561824m, N 716744m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.199761, -8.571372

Pre-development testing was carried out on 1 March 2019, at the site of the proposed housing development at Dolphin Street, Loughrea, Co. Galway. A single trench, measuring 30m east west and 1m in width, was excavated to undisturbed natural in places. The stratigraphy was seen to comprise almost entirely of disturbed fills, with three different services cutting through the trench at various levels. Nothing of archaeological significance was discovered during the works.

Licence number: —

Distance from subject site: 330m to the east

County: Galway Site name: Fairgreen, Loughrea

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A

Author: Alan Hayden, Dept. of Archaeology, University College, Galway

Site type: Town wall

ITM: E 561959m, N 717031m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.202348, -8.569386

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

The site was due for development and during the digging of engineer's test pits a watching brief undertaken by Mr Paul Gosling (Director, Arch. Survey of Co. Galway), recorded the existence of a wall

running north-south adjacent to the stream. As this wall lay on the line of the old town wall, an excavation was undertaken from 13-18 April 1987 to establish the date and nature of this wall and of a building marked 'Turret' (OS. 1st ed.) located on the line of this wall. The excavation was funded by the developer, G. McInerney Ltd, Loughrea, and by a grant from the Dept. of Archaeology, U.C.G.

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

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

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

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

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

2.2.2.5 Cartographic Research

Analysis of historic mapping shows how the landscape has changed over time. The comparison of editions of historic maps can show how some landscape features have been created, altered, or removed over a period. Sometimes features that appear on these early maps are found to be of potential archaeological significance during fieldwork.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey 6" Map depicts a scaled survey of the subject area in pre-famine times. The subject site comprises 3 undeveloped fields to the north of the town. A small, enclosed area to the immediate south is named 'Mountcarmel Graveyard'. St. Joseph's Convent and chapel are depicted further south. By the time of the 2nd edition map the small, enclosed graveyard is still depicted to the immediate south of the subject site, while extensive garden features have been added to the north of St. Josephs.

2.2.2.6 Aerial Photography

The usefulness of aerial photography is that it allows for a different perspective - 'the distant view'. Archaeological sites may show up on the ground surface, depending on their state of preservation, by light and shadow contrasts (shadow marks), tonal differences in the soil (soil marks) or differences in height and colour of the cultivated cereal (crop marks). It is also a useful aid in pinpointing existing features and can assist in ascertaining their extent and degree of preservation.

A review of available orthography dating from 1992 onwards found no additional unrecorded anomalies or cropmarks that may be indicative of archaeological activity.

2.2.2.7 Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

The topographical files of the NMI identify all recorded finds held in the NMI archive that have been donated to the state in accordance with national monuments legislation. The files sometimes include reports on excavations undertaken by NMI archaeologists in the early 20th century. Valuable information that can be gleaned might include the exact location, ground type, depth below ground level and condition when found, of each find. However, the amount and the usefulness of the information available on each find can vary considerably. The topographical files are listed by county and townland and/or street name. Due to the current pandemic the NMI archive was not visited. A review of the www.heritagemaps.ie indicates that there is one find recorded within the vicinity of the PDA. The nearest site is listed below.

Table 2 Archaeological finds in the vicinity

NMI Ref	Description	Address (Approximate)	Distance from PDA
1958:93	Polished Stone Axehead	Athenry Road	350m to the south

2.2.2.8 Toponym Analysis

Townlands are the smallest administrative land divisions used in Ireland and are in fact the only surviving administrative structure with a continuous history of development going back to medieval times if not earlier. Irish townlands generally relate not to settlements, but land units and as such they acquired legal title at an early date.

They constitute the basic divisions of the countryside and were carefully recorded in historic maps and books that accompanied the great land transfers of the seventeenth century. There are 62,000 townlands in Ireland, grouped into civil parishes, then counties and finally provinces. Townland names are a rich source of information for the land use, history, archaeology, and folklore of an area. The place name can have a variety of language origins such as, Irish, Viking, Anglo-Norman and English. The names can provide information on families, topographical features, and historical incidents. In terms of the built environment many names reference churches, fords, castles, raths, graveyards, roads and passes etc. In the compilation of the Ordnance Survey scholars such as Eugene O'Curry and John O'Donovan were commissioned to provide the Survey with the anglicised forms of the Irish placenames, and it is these anglicised forms that have been in general use ever since. In compiling the following data, several resources were consulted including the Placenames Database of Ireland www.logainm.ie and Irish Names of Places by P.W. Joyce (Joyce, 1913).

Translation according to P. W. Joyce: Cosmona in Galway; foot (cos) of the bog.

2.2.2.9 Townland Boundaries

The typology of townland boundaries can vary in different parts of the country, with some areas favouring distinctive high, wide earthen banks or just stone walling; sometimes there is a combination of earth and stone, with a stone-revetment or a facing on an earthen bank. Some boundaries are laid out along natural features including rivers, streams and high ground or manmade features such as roads and walls.

The townland boundary with Monearmore borders the site to the east on the other side of the R350 road. The boundary comprises stone walls and it will not be impacted by the proposed development.

2.2.3 Architectural Heritage

2.2.3.1 Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA)

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

In these areas, the protection of the architectural heritage is best achieved by controlling and guiding change on a wider scale than the individual structure, to retain the overall architectural or historic character of an area. The nearest ACA is Loughrea ACA which is located 300m to the south of the proposed development at its nearest point.

The historic core of Loughrea is an ACA. Loughrea's principal significance lies in the combination of its street pattern, plot sizes, architectural coherence, distinctive landmark buildings and unique setting. Most buildings span the late 18th to late 19th centuries and share many characteristics. Surviving traditional shop fronts are important elements within the town. For its size, Loughrea contains a generous number of buildings of national or regional significance.

2.2.3.2 Record of Protected Structures (RPS)/National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)/Industrial/Vernacular Heritage

The importance of our built heritage is enshrined in the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Part II, Section 10) which places a statutory obligation on local authorities to include in their Development Plans objectives for the protection of structures, or parts of structures, which are of special interest. The principal mechanism for the protection of these structures is through their inclusion on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). This list provides recognition of the structures importance, protection from adverse impacts and potential access to grant aid for conservation works. The record of Protected Structures is an ongoing process and can be reviewed and added to. In considering additions to the Record of Protected Structures local authorities have recourse to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) which provides a source of guidance on the significance of buildings in their respective areas.

There is one Protected Structures (which is also a NIAH site) in the immediate vicinity of the PDA.

Table 3 NIAH/RPS sites in the vicinity

NIAH Ref. No	RPS Ref. No	Description	NIAH rating	Distance from PDA
30337001	330	Structure: St. Josephs Monastery	Regional	130m

NIAH Description (<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/> retrieved 8th July 2022): Detached Carmelite convent, built c.1830 and consecrated 1833, comprising seven-bay block with pedimented breakfront, flanked by one-bay pedimented projecting ends, eastern being gable end of chapel, and with recent gabled porch to east elevation of chapel, four-bay sacristy to rear (north) gable of chapel, and range of outbuildings to rear. Pitched slate roofs with clay ridge tiles. Rendered chimneystacks, with wrought-iron cross finials to end bays. Roughcast rendered walls with tooled painted stone string course. Front elevation has pointed arch window openings to end bays, with tooled painted stone surrounds, painted stone sills and hood-mouldings with carved stops, stained-glass window to chapel, and square-headed window openings elsewhere with painted stone surrounds and sills, stressed keystone and stained-glass windows, replacement uPVC windows to middle bays and western end bay. Pointed arch window openings to three-bay side elevation of chapel, having render surrounds and sills and stained-glass windows. Carved painted stone doorcase comprising Ionic columns with oversized volutes, and moulded bases supporting moulded entablature with moulded cornice, moulded curvilinear pediment, round-headed fanlight with replacement uPVC fanlight and double-leaf door. Square-headed double-leaf timber battened door to porch with overlight. Curved coursed rubble limestone boundary walls with cement block upper layer. Cast-iron pedestrian gates, with smooth rendered plinth walls with cast-iron railings terminating in square-profile piers with pointed caps.

NIAH Appraisal: This convent building, of a form typical of nineteenth-century convents, occupies an imposing position on a rise to the north of Loughrea town. The building's social importance as a convent is further enhanced by the retention of important architectural details including the ornate well executed doorcase

2.2.3.3 Designed Landscapes/Demesnes, Historic Gardens & Country Estates

The Architectural Section of the DHLGH is in the process of a multi-phase study looking at Designed Landscapes and Historic Gardens that appear as shaded areas on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Maps, circa. 1830.

'The objective of this survey is to begin a process of understanding of the extent of Ireland's historic gardens and designed landscape. Sites were identified using the 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps. These were compared with current aerial photography to assess the level of survival and change.'

There are no designed landscapes, historic gardens or country estates located in the vicinity.

2.2.4 Fieldwork

A field survey of the subject site was carried out by the author on the 11th of July 2022 in dry and sunny conditions. The site was accessed via a field gate adjacent to the R350 road. The site comprises two low lying field separated by a drystone wall and hedge line/treeline which has been breached in parts. St. Josephs Monastery is located to the south. The subject site located to the rear of the lands associated with the Monastery and is bounded to the south by an uncapped vernacular drystone wall separating it from the monastery grounds. Further west, at the southwestern part of the subject site there is a well-constructed, mortared, and capped wall which encloses the garden and graveyard of the monastery. It is roughly 2.6m in height. This wall dates to the construction of the monastery. The site is bounded to the

north and west by a modern breeze block wall defining a housing estate at Hazelwood and Ashlawn. To the east the townland boundary at the R350 road is defined by a modern capped wall.

Nothing of archaeological significance was noted during the site inspection.



Plate 1 Looking north west along modern along R350



Plate 2 Looking south towards St. Josephs Monastery



Plate 3 Looking south towards boundary wall of graveyard and gardens



Plate 4 Looking west at subject site

3 Potential Impacts

The nature of the impacts is assessed with reference to the Glossary of Impacts provided in the Advice notes on Current Practices in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements, EPA, 2003, the draft Revised Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements, EPA, 2015, Guidelines for the Assessment of Architectural Heritage Impact of National Road Schemes, NRA, 2006

and Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impact of National Road Schemes, NRA, 2006.

3.1 Potential Direct Impacts

3.1.1 Potential direct Impacts on Recorded Archaeological Monuments

The project involves the construction of a Residential development at Cosmona Loughrea Co Galway. There is limited potential that the development will impact on sub surface material associated with the site's medieval past.

3.1.2 Potential direct Impacts on unrecorded Archaeological Monuments

Based on the site survey and available aerial and cartographic sources the potential to directly impact on previously, undisturbed archaeological material is low to moderate.

3.1.3 Potential direct Impacts Architectural Sites

The groundworks will not impact on any protected structures or NIAH sites. There are design features around the site particularly associated with the lakeside but with due care and caution any inadvertent impacts can be avoided.

3.1.4 'Do Nothing scenario'

In this instance, there would be no impact on any potential unrecorded sub surface deposits.

3.2 Potential Impacts on setting

Impacts on setting are primarily visual and examine the effect of the development upon the setting of a site within the wider landscape. Visual impacts can be reduced with sensitive site development and screening. The impact of the development is usually proportional to the extent to which that development is visible to and from the extent recorded monuments and features.

3.2.1 Archaeology Sites

The nearest recorded monument is the Burial Ground GA 105 066. These impacts on the setting of these sites are considered imperceptible.

3.2.2 Architectural Sites

The impacts for Fortfield House were determined to be imperceptible.

4 Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts

It is recommended that in advance of construction a programme of archaeological testing be carried out. Should archaeological material be uncovered at any location, the feature will be summarily investigated to determine the form, age, nature, and extent of the feature. The feature will be planned,

photographed, and recorded to best professional standards. Based on this information and in consultation with the National Museum and the National Monuments Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, further investigation may be required.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) and the South Dublin County Council Heritage Officer.

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<http://www.logainm.ie/>

<http://www.museum.ie/>

<https://www.townlands.ie/>

<http://webgis.archaeology.ie/>

<http://www.worldheritageireland.ie/tentative-list/>

<http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/>

Appendix 2 - Conventions, Directives and Legislation

Ireland has ratified several European and international conventions in relation to the protection of its cultural heritage. This section summarises Ireland's obligations as a signatory to several International and European conventions relating to the protection and conservation of cultural heritage sites. Also included is a synopsis of existing national legislation governing the care and protection of our cultural heritage resources.

CONVENTIONS AND DIRECTIVES

ICOMOS Xi'an Declaration, 2005

Ireland is a signatory to an international declaration sponsored by International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the Xi'an Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas, 2005, that endeavours to ensure the safeguard and conservation of the World's cultural heritage as part of its sustainable and human development.

EIA Directive 85/337/EEC as amended

To assist planning and other consent authorities in deciding if significant effects on the environment are likely to arise in the case of development below the national mandatory EIS thresholds, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government published a Guidance document in August 2003.

The European Landscape Convention 2000

In 2002 Ireland ratified the European Landscape Convention - also known as the Florence Convention, which promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues. It is the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with all dimensions of European landscape.

Valletta Convention, 1997

In 1997 the Republic of Ireland ratified the Council of Europe, European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (the 'Valletta Convention'). Obligations under the Convention include

provision for statutory protection measures, including the maintenance of an inventory of the archaeological heritage and the designation of protected monuments and areas.

Granada Convention, 1997

Under the European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage (Granada Convention), 1997, the Republic of Ireland is obliged to maintain inventories of architectural heritage, to protect the architectural heritage and adopt conservation policies as integrated planning objectives.

UNESCO World Heritage Convention, 1972

This Convention provides for the identification, conservation, and preservation of cultural and natural sites of outstanding universal value for inclusion in a world heritage list. The World Heritage status is a non-statutory designation, and no additional statutory controls result from this designation. However, the impact of proposed development upon a World Heritage Site will be a key material consideration in determining planning applications.

LEGISLATION

The Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006

The Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006 ensures the protection of the archaeological heritage resource by requiring that all applications under this Act are accompanied by an EIS including information on material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, and the cultural heritage.

The National Monuments Act 1930 to 2004

Irish legislation for the protection of archaeological heritage is based on the National Monuments Acts 1930 and amendments of 1954, 1987, 1994 and 2004. These acts are the principal statutes governing the care of monuments in the Irish Republic. They provide for the protection of national monuments using preservation orders. The overall state archaeological service is provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and delivered through the Planning and Heritage Section of the DHLGH and the National Museum of Ireland (Irish Antiquities Division) on behalf of the Minister.

The Planning and Development Act 2000

Under arrangements which came into operation on 1 January 2000 (The Planning and Development Act 2000), the system of listing buildings was replaced with strengthened procedures for the preservation of protected structures and structures in architectural conservation areas (ACA).

The Architectural Heritage and Historic Properties Act, 1999

This Act provides for the establishment of a national inventory of architectural heritage which forms the basis for recommendation from the Minister to local authorities of sites for inclusion in the local authorities Record of Protected Structures

OTHER POLICY CONTEXTS AND GUIDELINES

The Archaeological Survey Database (ASD)

The ASD is maintained by the National Monuments Service of the DHLGHG and contains the most up to date information on archaeological monuments within the State. The site is regularly updated with new sites as they come to light and has increasing volumes of information about individual sites.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)

NIAH data is available to be viewed and / or download from the www.buildingsofireland.ie website. The website contains detailed notes and photographs of all structures included in the recommendations made by the Minister to the relevant local authorities.

The Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage guidelines, 1999

This document sets out the basic principles of national policy on the protection of the archaeological heritage. A key principle set out in these guidelines is that there should always be a presumption in favour of avoidance of developmental impacts on the archaeological heritage and preservation in-situ of archaeological sites and monuments must be presumed to be the preferred option.