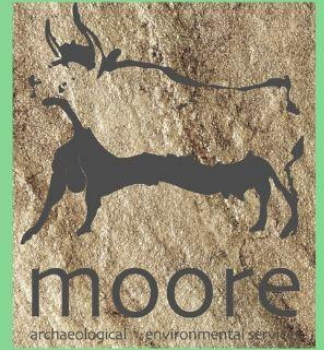

Prepared for
LUC

Presented on
12th June 2024



CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Prepared by
Declan Moore

Our Reference **21120**

Your Reference **NA**

PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENT SCHEME, CLIFDEN, CO. GALWAY

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Contract

This report describes work commissioned by LUC.

Report reviewed by: **Declan Moore**
Archaeological Consultant

Purpose

This report describes the results of a cultural heritage desktop and walkover assessment of a Public Realm Enhancement proposed at Clifden, 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: 21120 Clifden Public Realm CHA RevB

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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
PDA	Proposed Development Area

Coordinate System

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

1 Introduction

Moore Group was commissioned to complete a cultural heritage impact assessment of the potential impact of the proposed Public Realm Enhancement scheme for Clifden, Co. Galway.

The proposed enhancement scheme aims to transform the town with works proposed at the town centre, Harbour Park and Beach Road Quay.

1.1 Scope of Work

This study aims to assess the baseline archaeological 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 (1930-2014).
- 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.

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’), which were deemed applicable to the task at hand.

1.2.1 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.

All townlands located within 1km of the proposed development site were listed and crossed referenced with:

- National Monuments, a list for Co. Sligo available from www.archaeology.ie.
- Preservation Orders, a list available from the National Monuments Service; and
- Lists contained in the Report of the Commissioners or Church Temporalities of Ireland (1879) which contain lists of Churches, School Houses and Graveyards that were vested in the Representative Church Body and the Burial Boards under The Irish Church Act, 1869. These sites which have the potential to be in the ownership of the Local Authorities were highlighted as potential National Monuments.

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; and
- Documentary Sources: several literary references were consulted.

1.3 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 1930-2014. 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.

1.4 Galway County Development Plan and Clifden LAP

The relevant policies and objectives for Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage management for Galway were reviewed.

1.5 Description of Project

The key objectives of this project are to:

- Improve the experience for the pedestrian by enhancing the public realm, reducing dominance of the motor vehicle movements and parking while promoting a sense of the character and appearance of Clifden Town Centre.
- To engage constructively with the local population through a detailed and comprehensive “Public Consultation Strategy” at prescribed stages throughout the project delivery
- Redesign the Market square to a more user-friendly layout, reinstating its prominence heart of the town centre
- Create a sense of arrival with high quality public realm interventions at gateway locations.
- Incorporate the principles of universal, inclusive and age friendly design into the scheme.
- Minimise on-street clutter.
- Improve soft landscaping throughout the town in a coherent and consistent manner
- Design specific areas of public realm extending the pavement providing extra outside for businesses to operate; looking at examples of “parklets” or “build outs” as appropriate in their context
- Introduce an appropriate and consistent palette of high-quality materials in accordance the historic character of Clifden Town Centre and new development within the ACA
- Ensure the scheme is durable and consider maintenance.

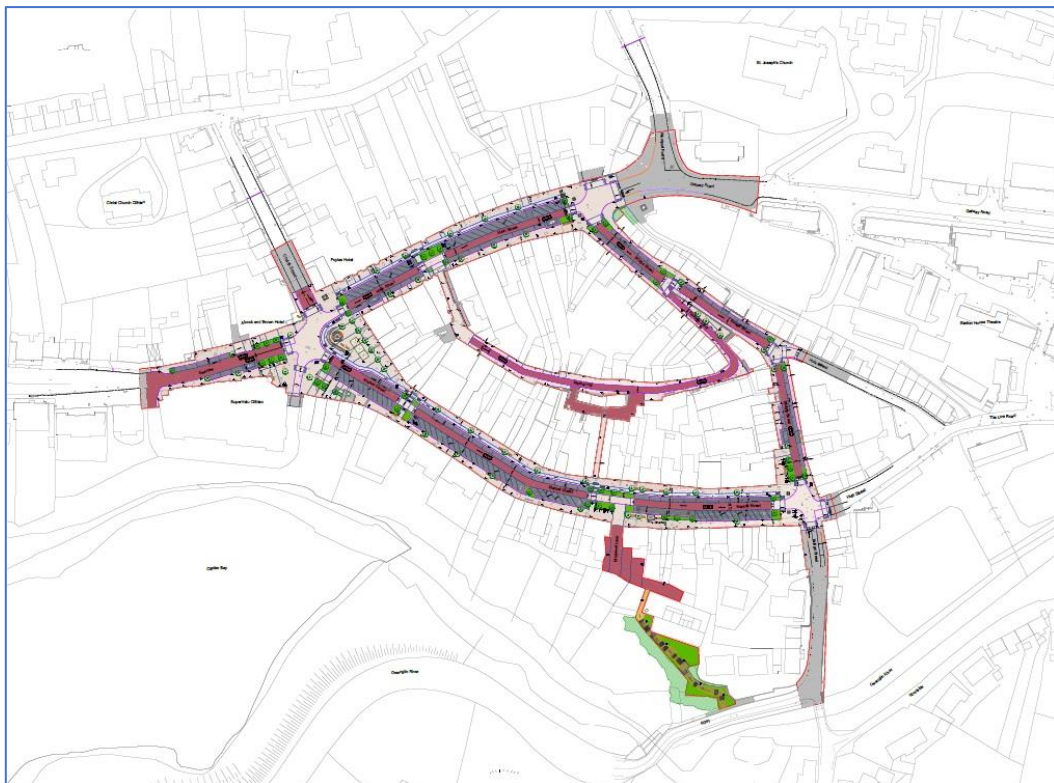


Figure 1 Map showing town centre enhancement areas.



Figure 2 **Map showing Harbour Park enhancement areas.**



Figure 3 Map showing Beach Road Quay enhancement areas.

2 Existing Environment

2.1 Location Details

Clifden is a coastal town in west County Galway located 50 miles northwest of Galway city. It is characterised by several areas of highly scenic landscape, including panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean, the Twelve Bens, and the surrounding countryside.

Table 1 Location details

County	Galway
Area	Connemara
Barony	Ballinahinch
Townland (s)	Clifden
NGR	Centred on 465862 / 750588

2.2 Archaeological, Architectural and Historical Background

2.2.1 Mesolithic Period

The Mesolithic (middle stone age) people were the first inhabitants of Ireland, arriving about 9000 years ago (c.6000BC – 4000 BC). They were a mobile society relying on wild resources for food which was hunted and gathered using stone tools as well as boats, nets, and traps. Settlement was in temporary and semi-permanent groups of huts constructed of wood slung with hide which may have operated as seasonal or hunting camps.

Mesolithic activity to date shows a marked concentration in the north-east of Ireland. Evidence for Mesolithic activity in Galway is scarce. The concentration of find-spots and sites in the northeast can, in part be attributed to both the availability of flint and the large number of antiquarians and collectors in the region and suggests that activity in this period was widespread in the country, with settlers probably utilising the extensive coastline for fish and shellfish. Finds from Galway include a distally trimmed chert flake from the western shores of Lough Corrib at Oughterard, which is later Mesolithic in provenance. These nomadic people left little else behind except midden sites along the coastlines of Connemara at Ballyconneely, Omey Island and Dog's Bay.

2.2.2 Neolithic Period

Farming was first adopted in the Middle East but spread gradually across Europe in succeeding centuries, arriving in Ireland about 4000 BC. Tending of crops and animals required a more sedentary lifestyle and larger permanent settlements were built. The megalithic (from the Greek mega – large and lith – stone) monuments of the Neolithic people built as communal tombs or for ceremonial purposes, are

relatively common in the landscape. New methods were adopted for shaping stone tools and the first long distance trade networks were established.

Neolithic activity is more apparent in the archaeological record of Galway due to the presence of several known megalithic monuments. Megalithic monuments can be divided into funerary monuments, communal tombs for the burial of the dead and those with a more esoteric function such as stone circles, stone rows or single standing stones whose function was probably ceremonial. Single standing stones may have acted as foci or markers at the edges of territories. There are many examples of these in the West Galway/Connemara region. There is a particular concentration of 31 tombs in the north-western part of Connemara found in valleys and coastal locations which reflect an intensive settlement of the area. There are clusters found at the heads of Streamstown near Clifden, Cleggan and Ballynakill bays. Portal, Court, and the later Wedge tombs are found within the subject area. Specific examples include the court tomb south of Letterfrack (RMP GA023-020), and the portal and wedge tomb found in Knockavally (RMP GA022-047, GA035-074) to the northwest of Clifden.

Polished marble beads and axes were traded as prestige grave goods and the area around Clifden had rich marble deposits. None have yet been scientifically excavated but pollen analysis has determined a 200-year span of intensive farming activity beginning about c. 4000BC.

2.2.3 The Bronze Age/The Iron Age/Early Historic Period

As stone tools were replaced by the use of copper, later combined with tin to make bronze, the structure of society also changed over centuries. While some communal megalithic monuments, particularly wedge tombs continued to be used, the Bronze Age is characterised by a movement towards single burial and the production of prestige items and weapons, suggesting that society was increasingly stratified and warlike.

There is a notable concentration of Bronze Age burials known in an area roughly bounded by Athenry, Tuam and Headford, indicating that activity in this period was widespread in the region and suggesting a significant population density. Barrows, generally dating from the Late Neolithic to the Early Iron Age, along with standing stones are quite common in the Tuam - Headford area.

Although there is some debate about the provenance of the standing stones, it is generally accepted that they date from the later part of the Bronze Age.

Bronze Age standing stones are recorded throughout the Connemara area. There is a stone row found near Renvyle. Similar monuments are recorded in the Maumturk Valleys and at Gleninagh (Robinson, 1996, 333). A cluster of Fulachtaí Fiadh can be found on Inishlyon, east of Inishbofin and on Inishark. These islands were attractive to live on as they contained extensive deposits of soapstone, copper, and gold bearing ores.

The Iron Age however is known as a 'dark age' in Irish prehistory. Iron objects are found rarely, but there is no evidence for the warrior culture of the rest of Europe, although the distinctive La Tené style

of art with animal motifs and spirals was adopted. Life in Iron Age in Ireland seems to have been much as it was in the early historic period – mixed farmers living in or around small, defended settlements known as ringforts or stone cashels.

Ringforts, hilltop enclosures and other large enclosures are common across County Galway, both as raths (defended settlements defined by an earthen bank) and cashels (defined by a bank of stone). The smaller ringfort settlements are the most common monuments in Galway and are thought to be small farmsteads, enclosing houses, farm buildings and animal pens, enclosed as protection against raiders or wild animals. Excavations of the interiors suggest that the houses were small circular huts, built of stakes with a double skin of wattle and a thatched roof. Their distribution in the region is dispersed and widespread. The Archaeological Inventory of North Galway lists 1104 examples while the Archaeological Inventory of Galway (west) lists 135.

The larger hillforts and enclosures are either large secular settlements, dating to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age, linked to large ‘royal’ sites, or may be associated with pre-Norman monastic settlements. Limited fieldwork has been carried out on these monuments.

There are several promontory forts such as the example found at Renvyle Point and west of Clifden at Fahy. There are also many lake forts or crannogs known of which are mainly found in the blanket bogs of the lowlands (Robinson, 1997, 334). Examples can be seen at Bola and Scannive.

Unlike the rest of Galway or Clare, “Connemara does not have ...countless little raths” of the Early Christian Period, however it does boast many early Christian ecclesiastical sites, for example at Kill (GA035-48) near Lough Na Killa, Omev Island, Indreabhán in south Connemara and St. MacDaras Island (Robinson, 1997, 335).

2.2.4 Later Historic Period

In general, the arrival of the Vikings has left little impact on the archaeological record of the west however there is a notable exception relating to the discovery of a burial of a Viking warrior complete with shield, dagger, spear, and sword in the sand dunes above Trawnaman Beach in Eyrephort. John Sheehan has speculated that this may have been a hurried burial by a party of Scandinavian’s who may have been raiding along the offshore islands. There are records of similar raids on Inishbofin, McDara’s island and High Island. Indeed, their legacy is commemorated in the name of a place near Lough Sheenauns which translates as the house of the Vikings.

Politically and militarily, from the Norman Invasion to that of Cromwell, Connemara is identified with *Iar Chonnacht* or West Connacht. This area was run by the O’Flaherty clan from approximately the beginning of the 13th century to the end of the 16th century (Spellissy, 1999, 416). These were a sea going clan with castles on Inishboffin and Clare Island, Renvyle and Ballinahinch.

Connemara saw great changes during the Cromwellian and Jacobite wars of the seventeenth century. The native lords were defeated and evicted and replaced by landlords from the east in Cromwell’s

policy of 'To Hell or to Connaught'. One of the landlords to benefit from this was James D'arcy, ancestor to John D'arcy, who's vision it was to build a town which would improve the living standards throughout the area.

Clifden Castle was one of the first buildings to be built by D'arcy, c.1818. Sam Lewis described the castle in his Topographical survey of 1837, 'a castellated house standing on the verge of a fine lawn sloping down to the bay and sheltered behind by woods and a range of mountains'. It has round towers on both sides of the entrance and has a round tower on one side with a rectangular tower behind it.

John D'arcy actively encouraged merchants into Clifden, offering them leases of land and when this wasn't successful, he petitioned to Dublin Castle to help him build the town. Alexander Nimmo, an engineer to the western district came to Clifden in 1822. He drew up plans for a quay and was responsible for the roads linking Clifden to Galway and Westport. In the following years the town began to prosper and develop.

The Great Famine of 1845-49 killed many people and the landlords became bankrupt as they relied on their tenants for rent. The castle fell into ruin after 1850 when the D'arcy estates had to be sold. The new landlords were English and often absentee landlords. By the time of the Griffiths Valuation in 1855, the population had increased once again and was helped by a good harvest and new people coming into the area. The Galway to Clifden railway was built in 1895 as a relief work and gave Clifden a further economic lift.

2.2.5 Clifden

Clifden (*An Clochan*) sited at the head of the north arm of Clifden Bay was founded by John D'arcy in 1812. His now semi-derelict castle is located just west of the town centre on the Sky Road. The area has however been continuously inhabited for a much longer period. The existence of numerous archaeological sites and monuments such as enclosures, and ecclesiastical remains, within the immediate and wider environs of the town provides evidence of settlement in the area over a long period of time. More recent monuments such as a Famine Graveyard, Clifden Castle and Clifden Gaol, and the recently conserved Clifden Courthouse testify to the more recent history and importance of Clifden town and environs.

By 1835 Clifden had grown to facilitate 300 houses and a population of 1300 persons. At the time the town consisted of the following: 3 formal streets, a hotel, Gaol, Coastguard Station, two Churches, a National School, a dispensary, and a fever Hospital. Many of these features remain intact today. In fact, the character of Clifden's townscape is formed by contributions from this early period of its development, and subsequent periods providing a chronologically layered streetscape of much interest. The town has retained its original structure and form, with Main Street, Market Street and Bridge Street serving as the hub of commercial, retail and entertainment activity. These streets ring a slightly elevated area called Market Hill, which is bisected by a laneway, and is accessible through several pedestrian slips.

2.3 Archaeological Heritage

2.3.1 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 or candidate World Heritage sites within 30km of the wider subject area.

2.3.2 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.

The dataset from www.archaeology.ie indicates that there are no National Monuments within 5km of the proposed development works. All townlands within 5km of the proposed development site were cross referenced with the list of sites under Preservation Orders available from the DHLGH and no sites with this protective status were found.

2.3.3 Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)

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 relative to the Register of Historic Monuments (RHM), the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Archaeological Survey Database (ASD). Archaeological monuments are general registered by the National Monuments Service using a Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) number.

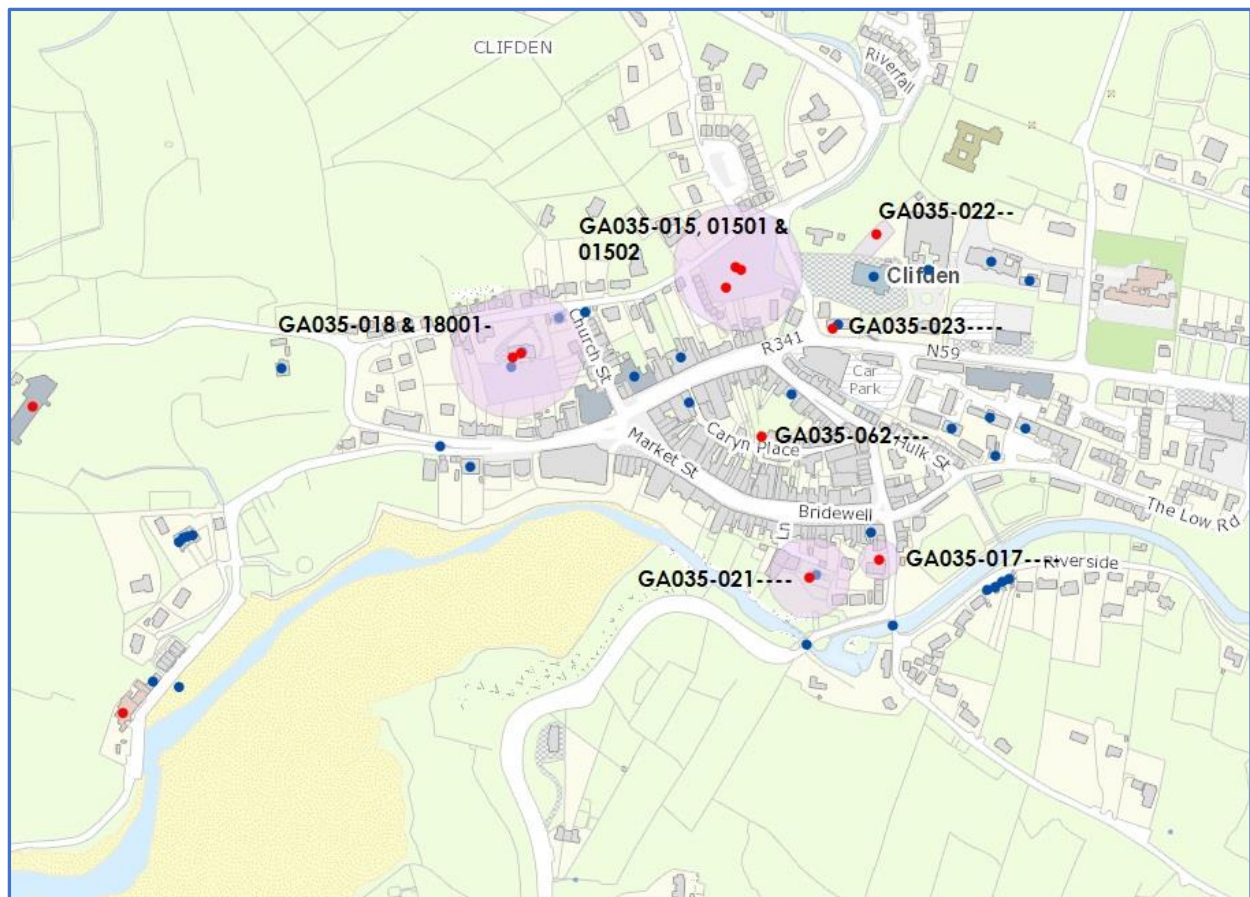


Figure 4 Archaeological Survey Database (ASD) Map showing nearest archaeological sites

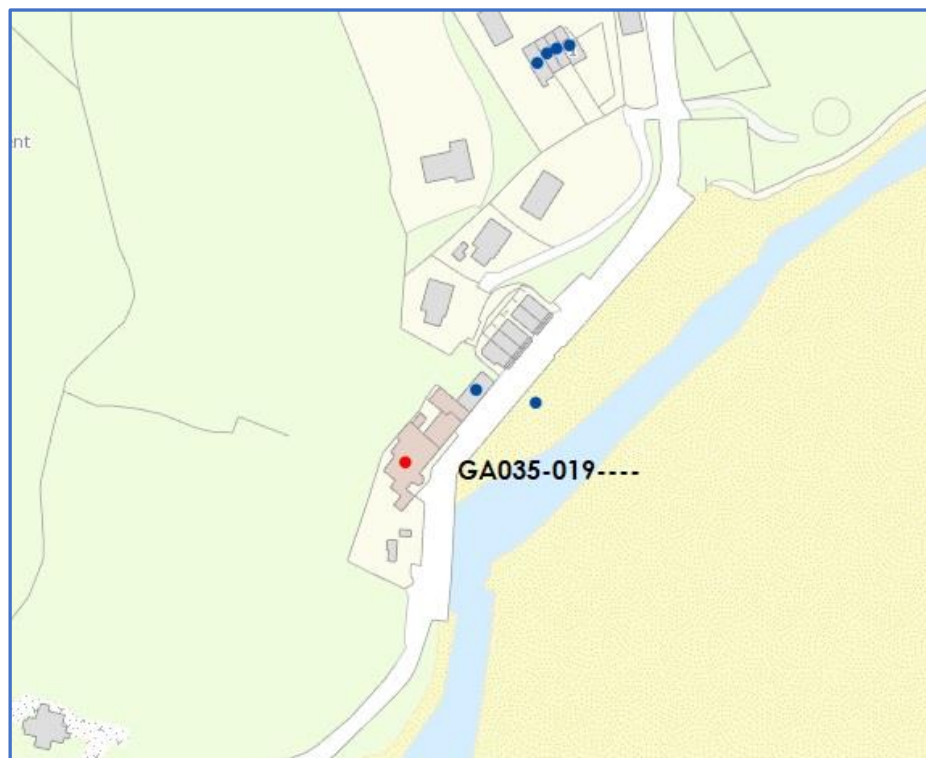


Figure 5 Archaeological Survey Database (ASD) Map showing nearest archaeological sites, Beach Road Area

2.3.4 Archaeological Survey Database

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.

Table 2 Relevant SMR's in the vicinity of the subject area.

SMR No	Class	Townland
GA035-018----	Class: Church	Clifden
GA035-018001-	Graveyard	Clifden
GA035-015----	Church	Clifden
GA035-015001-	Graveyard	Clifden
GA035-015002-	Standing Stone	Clifden
GA035-022----	Graveyard	Clifden
GA035-023----	Courthouse	Clifden
GA035-062----	Town	Clifden
GA035-021----	Prison	Clifden
GA035-017----	Monumental Structure	Clifden

2.3.5 Historic Maps

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 of time. Sometimes features that appear on these early maps are found to be of potential archaeological significance during fieldwork. For this study the following historic maps were consulted:

- First edition Ordnance Survey 6" Maps circa 1830; and
- Second edition Ordnance Survey 25" Maps circa 1900.

A review of the cartographic sources did not reveal any additional sites of archaeological potential.

2.3.6 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. Nothing of cultural heritage significance was noted within the subject areas.

2.3.7 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.

There is one record of finds in the vicinity of the subject area available from the NMI topographical files.

Table 3 Topographical files at NMI

Townland	Registration Number	Description	Additional Information
Clifden	B.469	Bronze bowl, beaten and spun.	Heavily patinated all over, flat base, vertical walls. Everted rim, narrow incised line parallel to the lip.

2.3.8 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 2022.

The database gives access to over 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.

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 following entries are recorded in the general area:

06E0735

Galway

2006:775

Clifden

Urban

Monitoring of broadband installation was undertaken over a ten-week period from September 2006. The work involved the excavation of a trench 0.55–0.6m wide and 0.8m deep to facilitate the installation of broadband cables in the area of Clifden town. The trenches were excavated in the streets surrounding the town centre and roadways in the vicinity of the town. Excavations revealed no features of archaeological significance.

Martin Fitzpatrick, Arch Consultancy Ltd, Ballydavid South, Athenry, Co. Galway.

13E0381

Galway

Site name: Clifden Sewerage Scheme

Sites and Monuments Record No.: GA035-062

Author: Martin Fitzpatrick

Site type: Town

ITM: E 465906m, N 750686m

Monitoring of ground disturbance associated with the Clifden sewerage and network upgrade was undertaken over several months from December 2013. The works involved the excavation of trenches in the centre of the town and roads leading from the centre to the north, east and west. The purpose of the excavations was to divert existing services, replace the sewer and upgrade the network. The installation of tanks in three areas was also monitored. Clifden is a 19th-century town founded by John D'Arcy and today is a tourist hub in Connemara. Several stone culverts were uncovered on Market Street and Bridge Street while faint traces of a cobbled surface were revealed between Bridge Street and

Hulk Street and on Beach Road. On Market Street several clay pipe fragments and a coin dated to 1916 was recovered from the fill.

19E0744

County: Galway Site name: St. Joseph's Convent School, Clifden

Sites and Monuments Record No.: None

Author: Anne Carey

Site type: Nineteenth-century orphanage and industrial school

ITM: E 466111m, N 750764m

Pre-development testing was carried out in the grounds of St. Joseph's Convent School, protected structure RPS 593, Clifden, Co. Galway, on 3 and 4 December 2019, in response to a planning application by Galway County Council for the re-development of the site as accommodation. Fourteen trenches were mechanically excavated through anomalies that were discovered during a programme of geophysical survey at the site and a further two trenches were mechanically excavated in a previously overgrown area to the north of the convent building.

No historical buried features or any archaeological features were discovered during the works.

2.3.9 Toponym Analysis

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 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).

Table 4: Toponyms

Townland Name/ Name	Irish Version	Translation
Clifden	<i>An Clochán</i>	'Bee hive cell'

2.4 Fieldwork

Historically Clifden is a relatively new town dating to 1812 and was geometrically laid out around a central core and marketplace with two wide roads dominated by churches at either end.

The site inspection was conducted in January 2022. The conditions were good for the inspection and all areas were fully accessible. A site walkover was completed, and a visual inspection undertaken at the

locations of the proposed works as part of the Public Realm Enhancement. For the most part the works area comprises existing urban streetscapes and road. The harbour park area comprises waste ground which is gravel covered.

Nothing of additional archaeological significance was noted during the walkover.



Plate 1 Looking southwest along Beach Road enhancement area

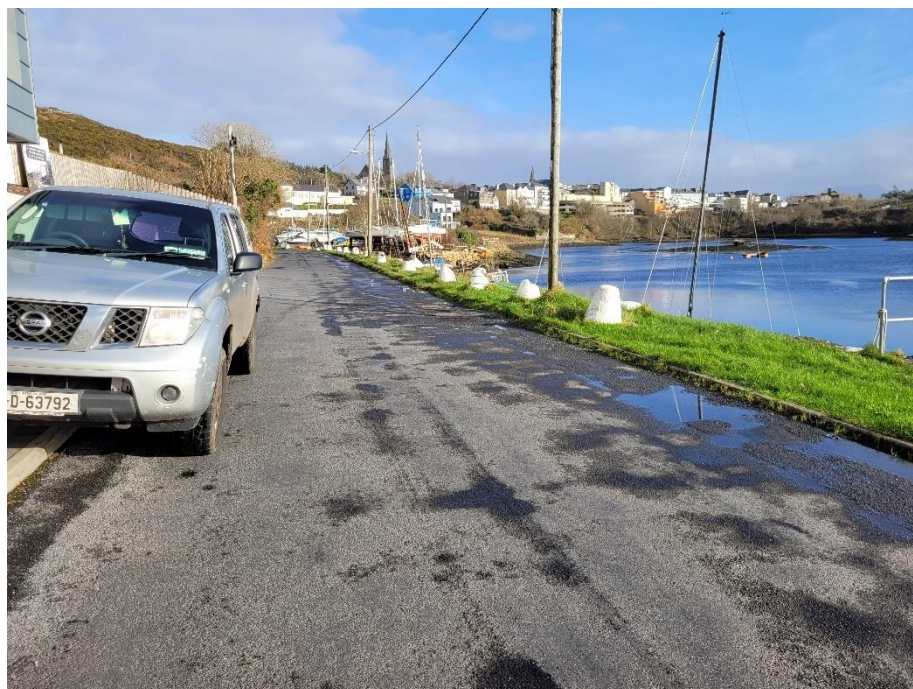


Plate 2 Looking north east along Beach Road enhancement area



Plate 3 Looking west at Harbour Park enhancement area



Plate 4 Looking west at Harbour Park enhancement area



Plate 5 Looking west towards Market Square

2.5 Potential Direct Impacts

Direct negative impacts may occur where sites of archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage significance are located within the footprint of the proposed development, which would potentially be impacted upon by ground disturbances.

In relation to the proposed development, direct, physical impacts on the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage can manifest themselves in the following ways:

- Where an archaeological, architectural, or cultural heritage site, structure, monument or feature is located within an area where works takes place and the works either intentionally or unintentionally entail the alteration or removal of all or part of the site, structure, monument or feature a direct, physical impact will occur.
- Direct, physical impacts can also occur in gaining access to the site. Where archaeological, architectural, or cultural heritage sites, structures, monuments, or features are intentionally or unintentionally removed or altered when transporting and/or facilitating access for machinery, equipment and/or materials to or from site a direct physical impact will occur; and
- There is the potential for direct, physical impacts on previously unrecorded archaeological and architectural sites, structures, monuments, or features.

If these impacts cannot be remediated, for example if archaeological deposits are destroyed during excavations, then the impacts will be permanent.

2.5.1 Potential direct Impacts on Recorded Archaeological Monuments

There will be no impact on any recorded archaeological monuments by the proposed development.

2.5.2 Potential direct Impacts on unrecorded Archaeological Monuments

Groundworks have limited potential to impact on previously unrecorded archaeological remains.

2.5.3 'Do Nothing scenario'

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

2.5.4 'Worst Case' scenario'

In this case, construction work could potentially negatively impact previously unknown sites resulting in the loss or damage of archaeological artefacts and features.

2.6 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 extant recorded monuments and features.

2.6.1 Archaeology Sites

There will likely be no impact on any recorded archaeological sites by the development.

3 Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts

There will be no residual impact either physical or visual to any known and recorded archaeological or architectural sites by the proposed Public Realm Enhancement works at Clifden.

No further archaeological mitigation is recommended.

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4.1 OTHER SOURCES REFERENCED

- Dept. of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht, 1999. Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, Government publications, Dublin.
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- The Heritage Council, 2000. Archaeology & Development: Guidelines for Good Practice for Developers. The Heritage Council of Ireland Series, Kilkenny.
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- National Monuments Acts 1930-2014.

4.2 Electronic Sources

- <http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/>
- <http://www.excavations.ie/>
- <https://heritagemaps.ie/WebApps/HeritageMaps/index.html>
- <http://www.logainm.ie/>
- <http://www.museum.ie/>
- <http://webgis.archaeology.ie/>

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

5 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 a number of 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.

5.1.1 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.

5.1.2 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.

5.1.3 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.

5.1.4 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.

5.1.5 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.

5.1.6 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.

5.2 Legislation

5.2.1 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.

5.2.2 The National Monuments Act 1930 to 2014

Irish legislation for the protection of archaeological heritage is based on the National Monuments Acts 1930 and amendments of 1954, 1987, 1994, 2004 & 2014. These acts are the principal statutes governing the care of monuments in the Irish Republic. The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (DHLGH) provide for the protection of national monuments through the use of preservation orders. The overall state archaeological service is provided by the Department of 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.

Monuments are protected under the National Monuments Acts in a number of ways:

- National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a local authority;
- National Monuments, which are subject to a preservation order;
- Historic monuments or archaeological areas recorded in the Register of Historic Monuments; and
- Monuments recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).

5.2.3 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).

5.2.4 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

5.3 Other Policy Contexts and Guidelines

5.3.1 The Archaeological Survey Database (ASD)

The ASD is maintained by the National Monuments Service of the DHLGH 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.

5.3.2 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.

5.3.3 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.