

**An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact
Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry,
Co. Galway**

Project Code: RH1891

Client: Paul Keogh Architects

Report Author: Zack Hinckley

Date: 27/11/2025

Planning Reference: N/A

Report Status: Draft



RUBICON
archaeology



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page i

VERSION CONTROL

Version	Date	Description	By	Approved By
0.1	24/09/2025	First draft	ZH	
0.2	14/10/2025	Edit of 0.1	AM	
0.3	21/10/2025	QA Review	KM	
0.4	24/10/2025	Edits	ZH	COS
1.0	24/10/2025	Draft for issue	ZH/COS	
1.1	19/11/2025	Revision	ZH	RMJ
2.0	27/11/2025	Draft for issue	ZH	RMJ



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page ii

CONTENTS		Page
	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
1.	INTRODUCTION	3
1.1	Site Description and Location	3
1.2	Study Area	3
2.	OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY	5
2.1	Objectives	5
2.2	Desktop Study Methodology	5
2.3	Methodology Used for Assessing Baseline Value of Sites	6
2.4	Type of Effects	7
2.5	Methodology Used for Assessing Magnitude of Effects	8
2.6	Assessing the Duration and Frequency of Effect	10
2.7	Methodology Used for Assessing Significance Level of Effects	10
2.8	Assessing Effects on Setting	11
2.9	Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance	12
2.10	Limitations of this Assessment	13
3	BASELINE/RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT	14
3.1	Designated Archaeological Sites	14
3.2	Undesignated Cultural Heritage Sites within the Proposed Development Site	19
3.3	Archaeological and Historical Background	20
3.4	Toponymy of townland/s	21
3.5	Intangible Heritage/Irish Folklore Commission	22
3.6	Recent Excavations	22
3.7	Topography and Soils	22
4.	IMPACT STATEMENT	23
4.1	Development Description	23
4.2	Baseline Environment Summary	23
4.3	Impact Assessment	23
4.4	Visual Amenity	24
4.5	Cumulative Effects	24
5.	MITIGATION STRATEGY	27
6.	CONCLUSIONS	30
6.1	Archaeological Findings Summary	30
6.2	Recommendations	30
7.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	31
APPENDIX 1	INVENTORY OF IDENTIFIED SITES OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE AND/OR POTENTIAL WITHIN STUDY AREA	I
APPENDIX 2	LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK	LIV
APPENDIX 3	TERMS AND DEFINITIONS USED	LVI
APPENDIX 4	GLOSSARY AND DEFINITION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS	LVI
APPENDIX 5	COUNTY GALWAY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2022–2028)	LX



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page iii

APPENDIX 6 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

LXIV

TABLES

Table 1 – Dimensions of the study area	3
Table 2 – Baseline values of sites	6
Table 3 – Type of effects	7
Table 4 – Criteria used for rating magnitude of effects	8
Table 5 – Duration and frequency of effect	10
Table 6 – Criteria for assessing significance level of effects	10
Table 7 – Factors to be considered when assessing effects upon setting (after Historic England 2017)	11
Table 8 - Known of suspected monuments located within the study area	14
Table 9 – List of National Monuments within the study area.....	16
Table 10 List of sites within the Register of Historic Monuments.....	17
Table 11 List of Protected Structures within the study area.....	17
Table 12 List of NIAHs within the study area.....	18
Table 13 – Townland boundaries located within the study area.....	19
Table 14 – List of townlands within the study area	21
Table 15 – Summary of baseline environment	23
Table 16 – Previous applications within the study area.....	24
Table 17 – Summary of impacts and impact magnitude prior to mitigation.....	26
Table 18 – Summary of impacts and impact magnitude after mitigation.....	29

FIGURES

Figure 1	Site Location
Figure 2	Cultural Heritage sites within the proposed development study area
Figure 3	First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey map with the proposed development
Figure 4	First Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map with the proposed development
Figure 5	First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Cassini map with the proposed development



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to assess the importance and sensitivity of the known, as well as the potential archaeological assessment for the proposed housing development at Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway.

The proposed development comprises of 16 houses on a greenfield site south of the existing Páirc na hAbhainn housing estate. The houses will comprise of eight three-bedroom dwellings and eight two-bedroom dwellings. The development also includes public realm landscaping including new roadways and paths, public open space, public lighting, and resident and visitor car parking. The site boundary measures approximately 0.651 ha.

The proposed development is situated south of Athenry, in the townland of Gortnahown.

This archaeological assessment has identified 105 sites of archaeological, and/or cultural heritage significance within the defined study areas (see Section 1.2). These sites include 25 RMPs and 50 SMRs (CH001–CH075), two national monuments, Athenry Abbey (CH050), and the Athenry town defences (CH075), 29 previous archaeological excavations (CH076–CH104) and a townland boundary (CH105).

The proposed development will have no direct effects on any CH site. However, there remains potential for the presence of unknown subsurface archaeological deposits within the development footprint.

The proposed development will have an indirect effect on the setting of six RMPs (CH001, CH002, CH004, CH015, CH016, CH017) and an indirect effect on the townland boundary between Gortnahown and Farranblake East. The proposed development is within a greenfield which may have unidentified subsurface archaeology.

The following mitigation measures are recommended:

1. A suitably qualified archaeological consultant under license to the National Monuments Service Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, will monitor any sub-surface groundworks. A strategy will be proposed to the Local Planning Authority Archaeologist and National Monuments Service to suitably record any archaeological material identified, and preserve any archaeological material *in situ*, where possible. Where preservation *in situ* cannot be achieved, either in whole or in part, then a programme of archaeological excavation will be proposed, to ensure the preservation by record of the area of the development that will be directly impacted upon. Further work will then only be carried out following consultations with the County Archaeologist and the National Monuments Service.
2. As part of an advance works programme prior to construction, a combination of advance geophysical survey and advance archaeological test trenching will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence, of the areas where sub-surface excavation works are required.
3. Should archaeological features or deposits be discovered during archaeological testing, the extent of such features/deposits will be determined, a GPS location of the site will be established and works at this location will cease. A strategy will be proposed to the County Archaeologist and National Monuments Service to preserve the site *in situ*, where possible. Where preservation *in situ* cannot be achieved, either in whole or in part, then a programme of full archaeological excavation will be proposed, to ensure the preservation by record of the



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 2

portion of the site that will be directly impacted upon. This work should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under license and in accordance with the provisions of the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014. The results of any archaeological test testing, surveys and/or excavation will be submitted in a report to the Local Authority, the Heritage and Planning Division, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Museum of Ireland.

4. As part of an advance works programme prior to construction, advance archaeological test trenching will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence from the National Monuments Service (DOHLGH). The trench layout should be informed by the preceding geophysical survey to target the areas of archaeological potential identified.
5. Should archaeological features or deposits be discovered during archaeological monitoring and archaeological testing, the extent of such features/deposits will be determined, a GPS location of the site will be established and works at this location will cease. A strategy will be proposed to the Local Authority and National Monuments Service to preserve the site in situ, where possible. Where preservation in situ cannot be achieved, either in whole or in part, then a programme of full archaeological excavation will be proposed, to ensure the preservation by record of the portion of the site that will be directly impacted upon. This work should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under license and in accordance with the provisions of the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014.
6. Where a section of an upstanding townland boundary must be removed a representative cross-section of the feature will be investigated and recorded by a suitably qualified archaeologist prior to removal.
7. The resulting archaeological report will be submitted to the County Archaeologist and to the National Monuments Service Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Please note all recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service and the local planning authority archaeologist.



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 3

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to assess the importance and sensitivity of the known, as well as the potential archaeological assessment for the proposed housing development at Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway.

The proposed development comprises of 16 houses on a greenfield site south of the existing Páirc na hAbhainn housing estate. This study was undertaken for Paul Keogh Architects by Rubicon Archaeology Ltd.

1.1 Site Description and Location

The proposed development is situated south of Athenry, in the townland of Gortnahown (the location of the proposed housing development) The nearest urban settlement is the town of Athenry, the centre of which is approximately 0.7 km north of the proposed housing development.

The proposed development comprises of 16 houses on a greenfield site south of the existing Páirc na hAbhainn housing estate. The houses will comprise of eight three-bedroom dwellings and eight two-bedroom dwellings. The development also includes public realm landscaping including new roadways and paths, public open space, public lighting, and resident and visitor car parking. The site boundary measures approximately 0.651 ha.

The site will be accessed from the existing Páirc na hAbhainn housing estate, which is located on Baunmore Road. The triangular shape of the red line boundary is enclosed by rear garden walls of existing estates in the north and is partially enclosed by existing stone walls in the eastern and southern areas.

The housing layout will consist of two linear layouts located around a communal green space, comprising of two-storey semi-detached houses for the three-bedroom homes and two-storey terraced houses for the two-bedroom dwellings. The houses will have private off street parking spaces and private rear gardens within a side passageway.

1.2 Study Area

The study area for this assessment has been defined in respect of two factors:

- the ability of sites/information sources to provide information pertaining to the archaeological potential of the proposed development site, and
- the potential physical effects, as well as effects on setting, that the proposed works may have on sites of cultural heritage significance.

Taking these factors into account the study area has been defined as follows:

Table 1 – Dimensions of the study area

Subject	Study Area
National Monuments and Recorded archaeological monuments (SMRs/RMPs)	Within 1 km of the proposed housing development



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 4

Subject	Study Area
Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAS)	Within 1 km of the proposed housing development
Zones of Archaeological Potential	Within the proposed development footprint
Unregistered features of cultural heritage	Within the proposed development footprint
Areas of archaeological potential; Unregistered Cultural Heritage Receptors (UCH)	Within the proposed development footprint
Previous Excavations and National Museum Topographical Files	Within 1 km of the proposed housing development



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 5

2. OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Objectives

This study aims to assess the baseline archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment, evaluate potential effects that the proposed works will have on this environment, and provide mitigation measures in accordance with the policies of the National Monuments Service, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH) and Galway County Council, the National Monuments Act 1930–2014, as amended, and best practice guidelines, to avoid, reduce or offset these effects.

Cultural heritage (CH) includes artefacts, monuments, groups of buildings, sites, and museums that have a diversity of values including symbolic, historic, artistic, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological, scientific and social significance. It includes tangible heritage (movable, immobile and underwater), intangible cultural heritage (ICH) embedded into cultural, and natural heritage artefacts, sites or monuments. The definition excludes ICH related to other cultural domains such as festivals, celebration etc. It includes industrial heritage and cave paintings (UNESCO 2009).

In order to provide a comprehensive assessment, an extensive desktop study in addition to a field inspection of the proposed development area was undertaken.

The scope and methodology for the baseline assessment have been devised with reference to the following guidelines:

- Environmental Protection Agency 2022 *Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements*
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) 2024 *Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of TII National Road and Greenway Projects*
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (DAHGI) 1999 *Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*
- Environmental Protection Agency 2003; Draft 2015 *Advice Notes on Current Practice (in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)*
- Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage 2018 *Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on Carrying Out Environmental Impact Assessment*
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2011) *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities*
- EirGrid (2015) *Cultural Heritage Guidelines for Electricity Transmission Projects. A Stand Approach to Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of High Voltage Transmission Projects.*
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2020 *Standard and Guidance for Commissioning Work or Providing Consultancy Advice on Archaeology and the Historic Environment*
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage 2022 *Heritage Ireland 2030: A Framework for Heritage*
- 2008 National Policy on Town Defences. *Environmental, Heritage and Local Government Ireland*

2.2 Desktop Study Methodology

The present assessment of the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage of the proposed development area is based on a desktop study of a number of documentary and cartographic sources.



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 6

The desktop study was further augmented by an examination of aerial photography as well as a field survey. The main sources consulted in completing the desktop study are listed here:

- List of National Monuments in State Care: Ownership and Guardianship
- List of Preservation Orders and the Register of Historic Monuments
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)
- Files of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)
- Updated SMR available at www.archaeology.ie
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Building Survey
- County and Town Development Plans
- Irish Antiquities Division, National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files
- Urban Archaeological Surveys
- Ordnance Survey first and subsequent editions, www.osi.ie
- Ordnance Survey Name books/Letters/Memoirs
- National Folklore Collection
- Early maps and estate maps
- Aerial photographs
- Excavations Bulletin (www.excavations.ie)
- www.loganim.ie (for townland names)

2.3 Methodology Used for Assessing Baseline Value of Sites

In order to categorise the baseline environment in a systemised manner, ‘baseline values’ have been assigned to each identified site of cultural heritage significance and/or potential within the study area (see Section 1.2). The baseline value of a site is determined with reference to the ‘importance’ and ‘sensitivity’ of the site.

The importance of a site is determined based on the following criteria: legal status, condition, historical associations, amenity value, ritual value, specimen value, group value and rarity.

The sensitivity of a site is determined based on the presence of extant remains and/or the potential for associated sub-surface remains of the feature to be present *in situ*.

It should be noted that the National Monuments Act 1930–2014, as amended does not differentiate between recorded archaeological sites on the basis of relative importance or sensitivity. In addition, the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) does not differentiate between Protected Structures or Areas of Architectural Conservation on the basis of relative importance or sensitivity either. Consequently, professional judgement has been exercised to rate these features based on their perceived importance and sensitivity in relation to physical effects and effects on setting.

Taking the above factors into consideration, the criteria that have been defined are provided in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Baseline values of sites

Subject	Baseline Value
- Recorded Archaeological Monuments	Very High
- Protected Structures	
- Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs)	



Subject	Baseline Value
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sites listed in the NIAH that are not Protected Structures- Unregistered built heritage sites that comprise extant remains which are in good condition and/or which are regarded as constituting significant cultural heritage features- Unrecorded features of archaeological potential	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Unregistered built heritage sites that comprise extant remains which are in poor condition- Unregistered cultural heritage sites (not including built heritage sites) that comprise extant remains- Townland boundaries that comprise extant remains- Marshy/wetland areas	Medium/High
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Unregistered cultural heritage sites for which there are no extant remains but where there is potential for associated subsurface evidence- Townland boundaries for which there are no extant remains	Medium/Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Unregistered cultural heritage sites for which there are no extant remains and where there is little or no potential for associated subsurface evidence	Low

Caution should be exercised when assessing the perceived significance of an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage site as such categorisation is open to subjectivity. In addition, the perceived levels of importance as identified in this report are liable to future revision in the instance where new information, through the undertaking of further archaeological investigations, is provided.

2.4 Type of Effects

The following table lists the type of effects that a proposed development may have on the cultural heritage resource (after Environmental Protection Agency 2022):

Table 3 – Type of effects

Type of Effects	Definition
Direct	Direct effects arise where an archaeological, architectural and/or cultural heritage feature or site is physically located within the footprint of the proposed development, or its associated physical effect zone, whereby the removal of part, or all of the feature or site is thus required.
Indirect	Indirect effects arise when an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage feature is not located within the footprint of the proposed development, or its associated physical effect zone, and thus is not affected directly. Such an effect could include effect on setting or effect on the Zone of Archaeological Potential of site whereby the actual site itself is not physically affected.
Do-nothing effects	The environment as it would be in the future should the subject project not be carried out.
Worst-case Effects	The effects arising from a project in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail.
Cumulative	The addition of many minor or insignificant effects, including effects of other projects, to create larger, more significant effects



Type of Effects	Definition
Indeterminable	Whereby the full consequence that the proposed development may have on the cultural heritage resource is not known
Irreversible Effects	When the character, distinctiveness, diversity or reproductive capacity of an environment is permanently lost.
Residual	The degree of environmental change that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have taken effect.
Synergistic Effects	Where the resultant effect is of greater significance than the sum of its constituents

2.5 Methodology Used for Assessing Magnitude of Effects

The methodology used to assess the magnitude of potential pre-mitigation effects, as well as residual effects, of the proposed development on the baseline environment is presented in Table 4 below.

Table 4 – Criteria used for rating magnitude of effects

Effect Magnitude	Criteria
Profound	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics• Applies where mitigation would be unlikely to remove adverse effects. Reserved for adverse effects only. These effects arise where an archaeology site is completely and irreversibly destroyed.• An effect that obliterates the architectural heritage of a structure or feature of national or international importance. These effects arise where an architectural structure or feature is completely and irreversibly destroyed by the proposed development. Mitigation is unlikely to remove adverse effects.
Very Significant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity, significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
Significant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An effect which, by its magnitude, duration or intensity, alters an important aspect of the environment. An effect like this would be where part of a site would be permanently affected, leading to a loss of character, integrity and data about an archaeological feature/site.• An effect that by its magnitude, duration or intensity alters the character and/or the setting of the architectural heritage. These effects arise where an aspect or aspects of the architectural heritage is/are permanently affected leading to a loss of character and integrity in the architectural structure or feature. Appropriate mitigate is likely to reduce the effect.• A beneficial or positive effect that permanently enhances or restores the character and/or setting of a feature of archaeological or cultural heritage significance in a clearly noticeable manner.



Effect Magnitude	Criteria
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.• A medium effect arises where a change to a site/monument is proposed which though noticeable, is not such that the archaeological integrity of the site is compromised, and which is reversible. This arises where an archaeological feature can be incorporated into a modern-day development without damage and that all procedures used to facilitate this are reversible.• A medium effect to a site/monument may also arise when a site is fully or partly excavated under license and all recovered data is preserved by record.• An effect that results in a change to the architectural heritage which, although noticeable is not such that alters the integrity of the heritage. The change is likely to be consistent with existing and emerging trends. Effects are probably reversible and may be of relatively short duration. Appropriate mitigation is very likely to reduce the effect.• A beneficial or positive effect that results in partial or temporary enhancement of the character and/or setting of a feature of archaeological or cultural heritage significance in a clearly noticeable manner.
Slight	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities• An effect which causes changes in the character of the environment, such as visual effect, which are not high or very high and do not directly affect or affect an archaeological feature or monument.• An effect that causes some minor change in the character of architectural heritage of local or regional importance without affecting its integrity or sensitivities. Although noticeable, the effects do not directly affect the architectural structure or feature. Effects are reversible and of relatively short duration. Appropriate mitigation will reduce the effect.• A beneficial or positive effect that causes some minor or temporary enhancement of the character of an architectural heritage significance which, although positive, is unlikely to be readily noticeable.
Not-significant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
Imperceptible	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An effect on archaeological features or monument capable of measurement but without significant consequences.• An effect on architectural heritage of local importance that is capable of measure merit but without noticeable consequences.• A beneficial or positive effect on architectural heritage of local importance that is capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.

Positive significance level of a construction or operation effect on a feature may also be expressed.



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 10

- **Significant positive:** a beneficial effect that permanently enhances or restores the character and/ or setting of the architectural heritage in a clearly noticeable manner
- **Moderate positive:** a beneficial effect that results in partial or temporary enhancement of the character and/ or setting of the architectural heritage and which is noticeable and consistent with existing and emerging trends
- **Slight positive:** a beneficial effect that causes some minor or temporary enhancement of the character of architectural heritage or local or regional importance which, although positive, is unlikely to be readily noticeable; and
- **Imperceptible positive:** a beneficial effect on architectural heritage of local importance that is capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.

2.6 Assessing the Duration and Frequency of Effect

‘Duration’ is a concept that can have different meanings for different topics. The EPA (2022) has issued the below guideline definitions when discussing duration in the context of environmental impact assessment.

Table 5 – Duration and frequency of effect

Term	Criteria
Momentary Effects	Effects lasting from seconds to minutes
Brief Effects	Effects lasting less than a day
Temporary Effects	Effects lasting less than a year
Short-term Effects	Effects lasting 1–7 years
Medium-term Effects	Effects lasting 7–15 years.
Long-term Effects	Effects lasting 15–60 years.
Permanent Effects	Effects lasting over 60 years.
Reversible Effects	Effects that can be undone, for example through remediation or
Frequency of Effects	Describe how often the effect will occur (once, rarely, occasionally, frequently, constantly – or hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, annually).

2.7 Methodology Used for Assessing Significance Level of Effects

The significance level of a construction or operation effect on a feature is assessed by combining the magnitude of the effect and baseline value of the feature. The matrix in Table 6 provides a guide to decision-making but is not a substitute for professional judgement and interpretation, particularly where the baseline value or effect magnitude levels are not clear or are borderline between categories. The permanence of the effects is also taken into account, with irreversible effects being more significant while temporary or reversible changes are likely to be less significant.

Table 6 – Criteria for assessing significance level of effects

Magnitude of Effect	Baseline Value				
	Very High	High	Medium/High	Medium/Low	Low
Profound	Very significant	Very significant	Significant	Moderate	Slight
Very Significant	Significant	Significant	Moderate	Slight	Slight
Significant	Significant	Moderate	Moderate	Slight	Slight
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Slight	Slight	Negligible



Magnitude of Effect	Baseline Value				
	Very High	High	Medium/High	Medium/Low	Low
Slight	Moderate	Slight	Slight	Negligible	Negligible
Not Significant	Slight	Slight	Imperceptible	Imperceptible	Imperceptible
Imperceptible	Imperceptible	Imperceptible	Imperceptible	Imperceptible	Imperceptible

2.8 Assessing Effects on Setting

The definition of setting follows the guidance set by Historic England as they have developed a range of comprehensive guidance on this subject specific to heritage assets (Historic England; 2008; 2017). Hence setting is not simply the visual envelope of the asset in question. Rather, it is those parts of the asset's surroundings that are relevant to the significance of the asset and the appreciation thereof, and in which a heritage asset is experienced.

In most instances setting will relate to the historical value of the asset, where an appreciable relationship between the asset and an element of its surroundings helps the visitor understand and appreciate the asset. This may be in terms of a physical relationship, such as between a castle and the natural rise that it occupies, or a more distant visual relationship, such as a designed vista or the view from, for example, one ringfort to another. The former is referred to as immediate setting and the latter as landscape setting. Many assets will only have an immediate setting. Some assets will have aesthetic value that relates to the surrounding landscape, such as in the case of a designed view incorporating a distant hill, or that relates to the contribution the asset makes to the local landscape, for example a church spire providing a focal point in a view down a valley.

Historic England has provided a list of factors to be considered when assessing effects upon setting. These are broad factors and have been taken into consideration when assessing magnitude of effect and sensitivity. They are summarised in Table 7.

Table 7 – Factors to be considered when assessing effects upon setting (after Historic England 2017)

Factor	Discussion
Visual dominance	Where an historic feature (such as a hilltop monument or fortification, a church spire, or a plantation belonging to a designed landscape) is the most visually dominant feature in the surrounding landscape, adjacent construction of the proposed development may be inappropriate.
Scale	The extent of a proposed development and the number, density and disposition of its associated elements will also contribute to its visual effect.
Intervisibility	Certain archaeological or historic landscape features were intended to be seen from other historic sites. Construction of a proposed development should respect this intervisibility.
Vistas and sight-lines	Designed landscapes invariably involve key vistas, prospects, panoramas and sight-lines, or the use of topography to add drama. Location of a proposed development within key views, which may often extend beyond any designated area, should be avoided.
Movement, sound or light effects	The movement associated with a proposed development may be a significant issue in certain historic settings. Adequate distance should always be provided between important historic sites and proposed developments to avoid the site being overshadowed or affected by noise.



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 12

Factor	Discussion
Unaltered settings	The setting of some historic sites may be little changed from the period when the site was first constructed, used or abandoned. Largely unaltered settings for certain types of sites, particularly more ancient sites, may be rare survivals and especially vulnerable to modern intrusions such as wind turbines. This may be a particular issue in certain upland areas.

The following are guides to the assessment of magnitude of effect on setting:

- Obstruction of or distraction from key views. Some assets have been sited or designed with specific views in mind, such as the view from a country house with designed vistas. The obstruction or cluttering of such views would reduce the extent to which the asset could be understood and appreciated by the visitor. Developments outside key views may distract from them and make them difficult to appreciate on account of their prominence and movement. In such instances the magnitude is likely to be greatest where views have a particular focus or a strong aesthetic character. Sympathetic development may improve key views by removing features that obstruct or distract from key views and hence preserve or enhance the importance of the asset.
- Changes in prominence. Some assets are deliberately placed in prominent locations in order to be prominent in the surrounding landscape, for example prehistoric cairns are often placed to be silhouetted against the sky and churches in some areas are deliberately placed on ridges in order to be highly visible. Developments can reduce such prominence and therefore reduce the extent to which such sites can be appreciated or the contribution that they make to the local landscape. Similarly, sympathetic development can enhance the setting of such sites by, for example, removing modern forestry that would otherwise compromise the setting of a cairn that had been placed on a skyline.
- Changes in landscape character. A particular land use regime may be essential to the appreciation of an asset's function, for instance the fields surrounding an Improvement period farmstead are inextricably linked to its appreciation. Changes in land use can leave the asset isolated and reduce its value. In some instances, assets will have aesthetic value or a sense of place that is tied to the surrounding landscape character. Conversely, sympathetic development may restore or preserve the relevant land use and hence preserve or enhance the relevant value of the asset.
- Duration of effect. Effects that are long term or permanent are generally of greater magnitude than those that are short term.

Readily reversible effects are generally of lesser magnitude than those that cannot be reversed. Effects upon the defined setting will be of greater magnitude than those that affect unrelated elements of the asset's surroundings or incidental views to or from an asset that are unrelated to the appreciation of its value. The magnitude of effects can be rated from Negligible to Major using a similar scale to that for physical effects.

2.9 Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance

A review of the applicable legislation, as well as national, strategic and local planning policies and guidance was undertaken as part of this study. The relevant sections addressing archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage in the Galway County Development Plan (2022–2028) are included in Appendix 5. Any mitigation measures proposed in Section 5 take account of the current legislation,



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 13

policies and guidelines so as to avoid, reduce or offset effects on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment, in line with the aforementioned legislation, local planning policies and guidance.

2.10 Limitations of this Assessment

There were no difficulties or limitations encountered during the compilation of this report.



3 BASELINE/RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Designated Archaeological Sites

3.1.1 Known or Suspected Archaeological Monuments (The SMR and RMP)

A Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) was issued for all counties in the State between 1984 and 1992 and is continually updated and supplemented as additional monuments are discovered. The SMR is an inventory containing a numbered list of known or suspected monuments accompanied by 6-inch Ordnance Survey maps (at a reduced scale). The SMR formed the basis for issuing the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) - the statutory list of recorded monuments established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. Under this Act, each site recorded in the RMP is granted statutory protection. When the owner or occupier of a property, or any other person, proposes to carry out, or to cause, or to permit the carrying out of any work at or in relation to a recorded archaeological monument, they are required to give notice in writing to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage two months before commencing that work.

There are 75 known or suspected monuments within the 1 km study area of the proposed housing development (Section 1.2; Table 8). None of the monuments are within the proposed development nor have their Zone of Notification crossed.

Table 8 - Known of suspected monuments located within the study area

CH ID	RMP	RMP No.	Short Description	Townland
CH001	YES	GA084-027----	Enclosure - large enclosure	Farranablake East
CH002	YES	GA084-027001-	Burial ground	Boyhill
CH003	YES	GA084-032----	Ringfort - rath	Boyhill
CH004	YES	GA084-075----	Ringfort - rath	Farranablake East
CH005	YES	GA084-101----	Cist	Newford
CH006	YES	GA084-102----	Quarry	Newford
CH007	YES	GA084-024----	Bridge	Baunmore
CH008	YES	GA084-112----	Quarry	Prospect (Athenry By.)
CH009	YES	GA084-080----	Bridge	Gortnahown
CH010	NO	GA084-021001-	Memorial stone (present location)	Baunmore
CH011	YES	GA084-021----	Church	Baunmore
CH012	YES	GA084-023----	Fulacht fia	Baunmore
CH013	YES	GA084-020----	Well	Baunmore
CH014	YES	GA084-074----	Ringfort - rath	Farranablake East
CH015	YES	GA084-073001-	Souterrain	Farranablake East
CH016	YES	GA084-073----	Ringfort - rath	Farranablake East
CH017	YES	GA084-072----	Ringfort - rath	Farranablake East
CH018	YES	GA084-029----	Ringfort - rath	Boyhill
CH019	YES	GA084-028----	Ringfort - rath	Boyhill
CH020	YES	GA096-089----	Ringfort - cashel	Farranablake East
CH021	YES	GA096-090----	Ringfort - cashel	Farranablake East
CH022	NO	GA084-001055-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH023	NO	GA084-001038-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH024	NO	GA084-001037-	Graveslab	Athenry



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 15

CH025	NO	GA084-001064-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH026	NO	GA084-001060-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH027	NO	GA084-001082-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH028	NO	GA084-001072-	Wall monument	Athenry
CH029	NO	GA084-001071-	Wall monument	Athenry
CH030	NO	GA084-001070-	Wall monument	Athenry
CH031	NO	GA084-001075-	Wall monument	Athenry
CH032	NO	GA084-001074-	Wall monument	Athenry
CH033	NO	GA084-001066-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH034	NO	GA084-001079-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH035	NO	GA084-001035-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH036	NO	GA084-001077-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH037	NO	GA084-001063-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH038	NO	GA084-001062-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH039	NO	GA084-001057-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH040	NO	GA084-001084-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH041	NO	GA084-001083-	Wall monument	Athenry
CH042	NO	GA084-001076-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH043	NO	GA084-001058-	Wall monument	Athenry
CH044	NO	GA084-001073-	Wall monument	Athenry
CH045	NO	GA084-001034-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH046	NO	GA084-001061-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH047	NO	GA084-001054-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH048	NO	GA084-001051-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH049	NO	GA084-001043-	Wall monument	Athenry
CH050	YES	GA084-001014-	Religious house - Dominican friars	Athenry
CH051	NO	GA084-001042-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH052	NO	GA084-001041-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH053	NO	GA084-001032-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH054	NO	GA084-001050-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH055	NO	GA084-001078-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH056	NO	GA084-001046-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH057	NO	GA084-001056-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH058	NO	GA084-001080-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH059	NO	GA084-001081-	Wall monument	Athenry
CH060	NO	GA084-001067-	Cross	Athenry
CH061	NO	GA084-001053-	Wall monument	Athenry
CH062	NO	GA084-001049-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH063	NO	GA084-001052-	Wall monument	Athenry
CH064	NO	GA084-001033-	Graveslab	Athenry
CH065	NO	GA084-001044-	Wall monument	Athenry
CH066	NO	GA084-109001-	Redundant record	Prospect (Athenry By.)
CH067	NO	GA084-109002-	Redundant record	Prospect (Athenry By.)
CH068	YES	GA084-110----	Redundant record	Prospect (Athenry By.)



CH069	YES	GA084-111----	Cross	Prospect (Athenry By.)
CH070	YES	GA084-113----	Road - road/trackway	Prospect (Athenry By.)
CH071	NO	GA084-001017-	Well	Athenry
CH072	NO	GA084-001021-	Dovecote	Athenry
CH073	NO	GA084-001018-	Redundant record	Athenry
CH074	NO	GA084-001016-	Well	Athenry
CH075	YES	GA084-001001-	Town defences	Athenry

3.1.2 National Monuments

National Monuments are broken into two categories: National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the state and National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of a local authority. Section 8 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1954 provides for the publication of a list of monuments, the preservation, of which, are considered to be of national importance. Two months’ notice must be given to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage where work is proposed to be carried out at or in relation to any National Monument.

There are two National Monuments within the study area. CH050 (GA084-001006-), Athenry Abbey (CH050) and the Athenry town defences (CH075) (Section 1.2; Table 9). In 2008, the National Policy on Town Defences was published, and it is based on the understanding that all ‘known and expected circuits of the defences (both upstanding and buried, whether of stone or embankment construction) and associated features of all town defences are to be considered a single national monument’ (DEHLG 2008, 4). Under this policy, the town defences (CH001) are automatically considered a National Monuments

Table 9 – List of National Monuments within the study area

CH ID	Type	ID Code	Short Description	Townland
CH050	NM	NM No. 164	Religious House – Dominican Friars	Athenry
CH075	NM	N/A	Athenry Town Defences	Athenry

3.1.3 Sites with Preservation Orders

The National Monuments Act 1930–2014 as amended provide for the making of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders in respect of National Monuments. Under Section 8 of the National Monument Act 1930 (as amended) the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, can place a Preservation Order on a monument if, in the Ministers' opinion, it is a National Monument in danger of being or is actually being destroyed, injured or removed or is falling into decay through neglect. The Preservation Order ensures that the monument shall be safeguarded from destruction, alteration, injury, or removal, by any person or persons without the written consent of the Minister.

There are no sites with preservation orders incorporated by the study area (see Section 1.2).

3.1.4 Register of Historic Monuments

The Register of Historic Monuments (RHM) is a list of registered historic monuments maintained by the National Monuments Service. All monuments listed in the RHM are protected under the National Monuments Acts, and any activities that could damage a monument are regulated using Section 12 Notification. Under this, any person proposing to carry out work at or in relation to a Recorded Monument is required to give notice in writing to the Minister two months before commencing that



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 17

work. This Section 12 Notification allows the National Monuments Service time to consider the proposed work and how best to protect of the monument.

There is one site listed in the Register of Historical Monuments (CH075), the Athenry town defences, which is also a National Monuments and RMP.

Table 10 List of sites within the Register of Historic Monuments

CH ID	Type	RMH no.	Short Description	Townland
CH075	RMH	RMH ID- 54	Town defences	ATHENRY

3.1.5 National Museum of Ireland Topographical Finds

The national museum of Ireland Topographical finds database was consulted to see if there was a record of an archaeological object within the study area (See Section 1.2). The database is a representation of the distribution of archaeological objects at a local and national level, based on the Irish Antiquities Division's Collections Database. Section 2 of the 1930 National Monuments Act (amended) defines an archaeological object as (in summary) any chattel in a manufactured or partly manufactured state or an unmanufactured state but with an archaeological or historical association. This includes ancient human, animal or plant remains. The database produced no results for the study area.

3.1.6 Record of Protected Structures

The Galway County Development Plan (2022-2028) was consulted for schedules of Protected Structures. These are buildings that a planning authority considers to be of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, and/or technical point of view. Protected Structures receive statutory protection from injury or demolition under Section 57 (1) of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000. Protected structure status does not exclude development or alteration but requires the developer to consult with the relevant planning authority to ensure that elements which make the structure significant are not lost during development.

If a structure is included in the RPS, the protection extends to:

- The interior of the structure
- The land in its curtilage. Curtilage means the land and outbuildings immediately surrounding a structure which is (or was) used for the purposes of the structure.
- Any other structures on that land and their interiors.
- All fixtures and features forming part of the interior and exterior of the protected structure or any structure on the grounds attached to it.

Inclusion of these structures in the RPS means that their importance is recognised, they are legally protected from harm and all future changes to the structure are controlled and managed through the development control process (e.g. planning permission) or by issuing a declaration under Section 57 of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

There are two Protected Structures found within the study area (CH117, CH120). Both monuments are also found within the NIAH register. CH117 is found approximately 0.77km northwest of the proposed development, while CH120 is found approximately 0.65km north of the proposed development.

Table 11 List of Protected Structures within the study area

CH ID	Type	RPS No.	Short Description	Townland
-------	------	---------	-------------------	----------



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 18

CH117	RPS	RPS-GA-144	House	Prospect (Athenry By)
CH120	RPS	RPS-GA-131	House	Athenry

3.2 Designated Architectural Heritage Sites

In 1997 Ireland ratified the Granada Convention on architectural heritage. This provided the basis for a national commitment to the protection of the architectural heritage throughout the country. The Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000, and the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999, made the legislative changes necessary to provide for a strengthening of the protection of architectural heritage.

3.2.1 Architectural Conservation Areas

The Kildare County Development Plan (2023–2029) was consulted for records relating to Architectural Conservation Areas (hereinafter 'ACAs'). The stated objective of ACAs is to conserve and enhance the special character of the area, including traditional building stock and material finishes, spaces, streetscapes, landscape and setting.

There are no Architectural Conservation Areas within the study area (see Section 1.2).

3.2.2 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (hereinafter the 'NIAH') is a state initiative under the administration of the DOHLGH and was established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. Its purpose is to identify, record and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently, as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to the planning authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures (RPS).

Table 12 List of NIAHs within the study area

CH ID	Type	NIAH No.	Short Description	Townland
CH106	NIAH	30332022	office	Athenry
CH107	NIAH	30332024	public house	Athenry
CH108	NIAH	30332025	house	Athenry
CH109	NIAH	30332026	house	Athenry
CH110	NIAH	30332027	house	Athenry
CH111	NIAH	30332028	house	Athenry
CH112	NIAH	30332029	house	Athenry
CH113	NIAH	30332031	house	Athenry
CH114	NIAH	30332032	house	Athenry
CH115	NIAH	30332033	house	Prospect (Athenry By)
CH116	NIAH	30332034	bridge	Prospect (Athenry By)
CH117	NIAH	30332035	house	Prospect (Athenry By)
CH118	NIAH	30332036	house	Prospect (Athenry By)
CH119	NIAH	30332037	house	Prospect (Athenry By)
CH120	NIAH	30332038	house	Athenry



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 19

3.2 Undesignated Cultural Heritage Sites within the Proposed Development Site

This section deals with sites that are considered to be of cultural heritage value, but which do not fall within the above categories as they are not registered. Such sites may include lime-kilns, dwellings/outhouses, trackways or townland boundaries etc. identifiable on the First Edition 6/25-inch OS maps and/or noted during the field visit.

3.2.1 Sites identifiable on cartographic sources

The First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Sheet (1840) and the First Edition 25-inch Survey (1902) were consulted to identify undesignated cultural heritage (UCH) sites that may be impacted on by the proposed routes.

There were no UCH sites identified through cartographic sources.

3.2.2 Townland Boundaries

A townland is the smallest official land unit in the country. Ireland is made up of approximately 60,000 townlands. As a result, townland boundaries are ubiquitous in the Irish countryside and have been incorporated into the modern agricultural landscape. Many townlands predate the arrival of the Anglo-Normans, and Irish historical documents consistently use townland names throughout the historic period to describe areas and locate events accurately in their geographical context. This suggests that many the boundaries of many of these territorial units preserve landscape divisions from the medieval period and perhaps earlier. The townland names and boundaries were standardised in the nineteenth century when the Ordnance Survey began to produce large-scale maps of the country. Research into the name of these land units frequently provides information relating to its archaeology, history, folklore, ownership, topography or land use.

The First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey was consulted in order to identify the location of townland boundaries that may be affected on by the proposed scheme. Two townland boundaries form the eastern and southern boundary of the site (Section 1.2; Table 13).

Table 13 – Townland boundaries located within the study area

CH ID	ID No.	Short Description	Townland
CH105	TB01	Townland Boundary between Gortnahown and Farranblake East	Gortnahown

3.2.3 Sites identifiable on aerial photography and satellite imagery

Ortho-rectified aerial photography available from the Ordnance Survey of Ireland was inspected in order to identify possible features of cultural and heritage significance. Aerial photography from the 1995, 2000, and 2005 fly-overs was inspected, as well as the latest OSI images, LiDAR imagery (where available), Google Earth and Bing Maps satellite imagery.

No additional undesignated cultural heritage sites were identified on other aerial photography and satellite imagery within the study area.



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 20

3.2.4 Areas of Archaeological Potential

Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAPs) are additional areas or locations whose landscape characteristics suggest a higher potential for unknown archaeological features to be present e.g. riverine, estuarine or peatland environments. There are no areas of archaeological potential identified within the study areas.

There are no AAPs within the proposed development.

3.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

The following section will describe and outline the archaeological and historical background of the preliminary study area of the proposed development at Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Galway.

3.3.1 Prehistoric period (4000 BC–AD 400)

Mesolithic

There are no Mesolithic sites within the study area, nor in close proximity to the study area.

Neolithic

There are no Neolithic sites within the study area, nor in close proximity to the study area.

Bronze Age

There are no sites within the study area that date concretely to the Bronze Age. However, there is one example that could be of this period. There is a cist site (CH005) approximately .75 km from the proposed development area. Cists are rectangular or polygonal structures constructed of stone slabs for burials and date from the Bronze and Iron Age (2400 BC–AD 400). There have been bronze artefacts found within the area including swords and shields, as well as scabbard, palstave axe head, and a halberd suggesting a Bronze Age presence in the area (Thompson 2008).

Iron Age

There is a lack of archaeological evidence of human activity in the Iron Age compared to the Bronze Age, medieval, and post-medieval in the study region, which is common throughout Ireland. There are ten examples of a ringforts within the study area, which are commonly known as early medieval monuments. However, there are few examples of some with Iron Age dates. Furthermore, the cist mentioned previously could also date to the Iron Age.

3.3.2 Medieval period (AD 400–1540)

Early medieval period

Ringforts are the predominant settlement feature seen in early medieval Ireland (AD 400–1169), with over 45,000 examples known (Stout 1997), they are quite commonly found throughout the landscape. There are many variations of this site type, usually univallate enclosures (single enclosure), however, there are examples of up to four enclosures, and usually measuring between 25 to 50 m across. They are earthen banked enclosures with ditches usually accompanying the banks (O’Sullivan *et al.* 2013). There are ten ringforts within the study area, with eight classified as raths and two as cashels. Raths are defined as circular or oval surrounded by an earthen bank with an external fosse. They are usually univallate (one) set of bank of fosse, however, there are examples that are bivallate (two) and trivallate (three) (Stout 1997). There is a large enclosure c. 21 km from the proposed development which is



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 21

referred to as ‘the Cashel of Raheen’, which has been suggested as being a ringfort (Knox 1918), however, Cody (1989) doubts its age and suggests it’s a more modern feature.

The townland of Athenry has been suggested as a significant place in the early medieval period, with the ford being a dividing border between three major Irish Kingdoms; Aidhne, Hy-Many, and Moyseola (Thompson 2008; Collins 2025).

Later medieval period

The late medieval period (AD 1169–1550) in Ireland is generally considered to begin with the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in AD 1169. Due to the historic town of Athenry, there is wealth of later medieval and post-medieval sites within the study area. Athenry Abbey (CH050), another National Monument. The Abbey was a significant place for patronage from Gaelic and Anglo-Norman lords with over 30 friars being present in 1445. The town later developed more in the 14th century onwards with the creating of town defences. The town was later retaken from the Anglo-Normans in 1574 leaving the castle in ruins for a long period of time after.

3.3.3 Post-medieval (AD 1540–1700)

As mentioned previously, the historic medieval and post-medieval town of Athenry is found within the study area. There are 29 graveslabs recorded in Athenry with most dating to the post-medieval period, however there are a few examples from the later medieval period. There are 13 examples of wall monuments within the study area, which are memorials for the dead usually inserted into the wall of the church with inscriptions and coat of arms. They date from the 13th century onwards.

3.3.4 Early modern period (AD 1700–1850)

Within the study area there are a few examples of sites from the early modern period. There are two examples of quarry sites (CH006/CH008). Both examples are post-1700 and could be from any time before 1932. There are also one road/trackways (CH070) leading into Athenry and could be as early as the 18th century.

3.4 Toponymy of townland/s

The Irish landscape is divided into approximately 60,000 townlands and the system of landholding is unique in Western Europe for its scale and antiquity. Many townlands predate the arrival of the Anglo Normans, and Irish historical documents consistently use townland names throughout the historic period to describe areas and locate events accurately in their geographical context. The townland names and boundaries were standardised in the 19th century when the Ordnance Survey began to produce large-scale maps of the country. The original Irish names were eventually anglicised to varying degrees, depending in part upon the linguistic skills of the surveyors and recorders. A study of the townland names can provide information on aspects of cultural heritage including descriptions of the use of the landscape by man and the potential presence of archaeological or cultural heritage sites or features.

There are ten townlands within the study area (Section 1.2: Table 14).

Table 14 — List of townlands within the study area

English Name	Irish Name	Glossary
Athenry	<i>Baile Átha an Rí</i>	Townland
Ballydavid South	<i>Baile Dháibhí Theas</i>	Townland
Ballygarraun North	<i>Baile an Gharráin Thuaidh</i>	Grove/townland



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 22

Ballygarraun South	<i>Baile an Gharráin Theas</i>	Grove/townland
Baunmore	<i>An Bán Mór</i>	Big/white
Cullairbaun	<i>An Coiléar Bán</i>	White/grassy
Gortnahown	<i>Gort na hAbhainn</i>	River field
Newford	<i>An tÁth Nua</i>	New ford
Prospect (Athenry By.)	<i>Geata an Láithrigh</i>	n/a
Raheen (Athenry By)	<i>An Ráithín</i>	Small ringfort

3.5 Intangible Heritage/Irish Folklore Commission

Cultural Heritage is a broad term that includes Archaeological Heritage, Built Heritage, Portable Heritage, and other resources inherited from the past by contemporary society. It consists of the tangible and intangible traces of the interactions between people and places, people and nature and people and objects through time (TII 2025, 8). In Ireland, work was done by the Irish Folklore Commission, and its successors, to collect and preserve Irish folklore. The Schools' Collection, for example, are a compilation of folklore and local traditions collected by pupils of 5,000 primary schools. The children collected this material from family members and neighbours (Dúchas 2025).

No folklore stories were recorded within the study area.

3.6 Recent Excavations

The Excavations Bulletin is an annual account of all excavations carried out under license. The database is available online at www.excavations.ie and includes excavations from 1970 onwards. This database was consulted as part of the desktop research for this report to establish if any archaeological investigations had been carried out within the study area (see Section 1.2).

There have been 29 excavations within the study area. The majority of excavations have taken place within the town of Athenry. Conservation work in 2013–14 was undertaken to conserve Loro Gate, one of the four medieval town gates which was uncovered during monitoring in 2007. There have been six separate excavations regarding the medieval town defences (CH076-CH081). Excavation within the new parish centre (CH077) in Athenry which is located on the existing Roman Catholic Church and the medieval town and moat, uncovered 13 burials that were associated with the 19th century church which once occupied the area. A partially collapsed burial chamber with three bodies was also uncovered alongside sherds of 13th century pottery.

3.7 Topography and Soils

According to the Teagasc Soil Information System (<http://gis.teagasc.ie/soils/index.php>), the main soil association is Faoldroim, a fine loamy drift with limestones. The underlying geology is Burren Formation, a pale grey clean skeletal limestone.



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 23

4. IMPACT STATEMENT

4.1 Development Description

The proposed development comprises of 16 houses on a greenfield site south of the existing Páirc na hAbhainn housing estate. The houses will comprise of eight three-bedroom dwellings and eight two-bedroom dwellings. The development also includes public realm landscaping including new roadways and paths, public open space, public lighting, and resident and visitor car parking. The site boundary measures approximately 0.651 ha.

4.2 Baseline Environment Summary

This archaeological assessment has identified 104 sites of archaeological, and/or cultural heritage significance within the defined study areas (see Section 1.2; Table 12).

Table 15 – Summary of baseline environment

Site Type	Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- RMPs- SMRs- National Monuments- Sites with Preservation Orders- Sites listed in the Register of Historic Monuments	There are 25 RMPs and 50 SMRs located within the study area (CH001–CH075). Two of these are National Monuments (CH050, CH075, and both are RMPs). None are located within the footprint of the proposed housing development.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs)	There are no ACAs incorporated by the study area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Unregistered Cultural Heritage Sites	There are no UCH sites within the study area
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Areas/features of Archaeological Potential	There are no areas of Archaeological Potential within the study area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Previous archaeological excavation	There are 29 previous archaeological excavations within the study area

4.3 Impact Assessment

This section assesses the likely significant impacts that the proposed development will have on the baseline/receiving environment, prior to the implementation of any mitigation measures. The methodology used in ascertaining the baseline value of sites, the type, magnitude and significance level of impacts is set out in Section 2 above.

Mitigation measures to avoid, reduce or offset these impacts and the residual impact that the project will have on each site of cultural heritage significance and/or potential are provided in Sections 5 and 6 below.

4.3.1 Direct impacts

As laid out, the proposed housing development will have no direct impact on any archaeological monuments.



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 24

4.3.2 Indirect impacts

As laid out, the proposed housing development will likely have an indirect impact on the setting on CH001, CH002, and CH004. Both CH001 and CH002 are just to the east of the proposed boundary, however, most of the monuments have already been impacted by roads and housing. It will also likely have an indirect impact on setting of CH015, CH016, and CH017, although this is reduced by the distance

For the duration of its use, the project will have a temporary indirect impact on the setting of CH105 (townland boundary). Given that townland boundaries are so ubiquitous in the Irish countryside, and that they have been incorporated into the modern agricultural landscape, they are subject to frequent changes in their surroundings. Although forming a part of the cultural landscape of the area, these are not currently considered amenities.

4.4 Visual Amenity

As laid out, the proposed housing development may have a visual effect on the setting of CH001, CH002, CH004, CH015, CH016, and CH017. The proposed development will have a moderate effect on the setting of these sites.

4.5 Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effect is defined as ‘The addition of many small impacts to create one larger, more significant, impact’ (EPA 2017). Cumulative impacts encompass the combined effects of multiple developments or activities on a range of receptors. In this case the receptors are the archaeological monuments and architectural/cultural heritage sites in the immediate vicinity of the proposed scheme. Cumulative impacts at the construction and operational stages are considered.

Given the sub-surface nature of potential archaeology, the potential to investigate unknown subsurface archaeology prior the construction phase will provide data to the archaeological community from the potential subsurface sites. The potential to gain knowledge outweighs the negative effects. Furthermore, the implementation of mitigation measures for the proposed development will ensure that the cumulative effect is neutral and not significant.

Subject to the implementation of the appropriate archaeological mitigation measures during the construction phase of the development, no residual cumulative effects on archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage are predicted.

Table 16 – Previous applications within the study area

Ref. Number	Distance from Subject Site	Status	Description	Townland
2360064	0.01 km	Granted (conditional)	For the construction of a single-storey rear extension with all associated works and ancillary services. Gross floor space of proposed works: 22.50 sqm.	Gortnahown



Ref. Number	Distance from Subject Site	Status	Description	Townland
2359	0.13 km	Granted (conditional)	To construct a domestic garage including all associated works and services at the rear of his dwelling house. Gross floor space of proposed works: 51 sqm	Farranblake East
2560871	0.52 km	Granted (conditional)	To build two road maintenance vehicle storage sheds. Gross floor space of proposed works: 551.00 sqm	Farranblake East



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 26

Table 17 – Summary of impacts and impact magnitude prior to mitigation

CH No.	Category	Summary	Baseline Value	Impact Type	Description of Impact	Impact Magnitude	Significance of Impact
CH001	RMP	Enclosure – long enclosure	Very High	Indirect Impact	Long term, indirect effect on the setting of the monument.	Moderate	Moderate
CH002	RMP	Burial ground	Very High	Indirect Impact	Long term, indirect effect on the setting of the monument.	Moderate	Moderate
CH004	RMP	Ringfort – rath	Very High	Indirect Impact	Long term, indirect effect on the setting of the monument.	Moderate	Moderate
CH015	RMP	Souterrain	Very High	Indirect Impact	Long term, indirect effect on the setting of the monument.	Moderate	Moderate
CH016	RMP	Ringfort – rath	Very High	Indirect Impact	Long term, indirect effect on the setting of the monument.	Moderate	Moderate
CH017	RMP	Ringfort – rath	Very High	Indirect Impact	Long term, indirect effect on the setting of the monument.	Moderate	Moderate
CH105	TB	Boundary between Gortnahown and Farranblake East	Medium /High	Indirect Impact	Long term, indirect effect on the setting of the townland boundaries	Moderate	Slight



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 27

5. MITIGATION STRATEGY

The following mitigation measures proposed are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service and the local planning authority.

The current state policy is that preservation *in situ* of archaeological material is the preferred option. Where this cannot be achieved then appropriate measures need to be adopted to ameliorate the impacts that the proposed development may have on features of archaeological, architectural and/or cultural heritage within the study area (see Section 1.2) during both the construction and operational phases of the works.

The below recommendations have been compiled with reference to the Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1999) as well as the following:

- Environmental Protection Agency 2003 *Advice notes on Current Practice (in the Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)*
- Environmental Protection Agency 2022 *Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR)*
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (DAHGI) 1999 *Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2011 *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities*

Due to the potential for sub-surface archaeological remains within the proposed development site and the identified potential indirect impacts on cultural heritage assets the following mitigation measures are recommended:

1. A suitably qualified archaeological consultant under license to the National Monuments Service Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, will monitor any sub-surface groundworks. Due to the proposed development being within a greenfield there is potential for unidentified subsurface archaeology. A strategy will be proposed to the Local Planning Authority Archaeologist and National Monuments Service to suitably record any archaeological material identified, and preserve any archaeological material *in situ*, where possible. Where preservation *in situ* cannot be achieved, either in whole or in part, then a programme of archaeological excavation will be proposed, to ensure the preservation by record of the area of the development that will be directly impacted upon. Further work will then only be carried out following consultations with the County Archaeologist and the National Monuments Service.
2. As part of an advance works programme prior to construction, a combination of advance geophysical survey and advance archaeological test trenching will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence, of the areas where sub-surface excavation works are required. Due to the proposed development being within a greenfield there is potential for unidentified subsurface archaeology.
3. Should archaeological features or deposits be discovered during archaeological testing, the extent of such features/deposits will be determined, a GPS location of the site will be established and works at this location will cease. A strategy will be proposed to the County Archaeologist and National Monuments Service to preserve the site *in situ*, where possible. Where preservation *in situ* cannot be achieved, either in whole or in part, then a programme of



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 28

full archaeological excavation will be proposed, to ensure the preservation by record of the portion of the site that will be directly impacted upon. This work should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under license and in accordance with the provisions of the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014. The results of any archaeological test testing, surveys and/or excavation will be submitted in a report to the Local Authority, the Heritage and Planning Division, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Museum of Ireland.

4. As part of an advance works programme prior to construction, advance archaeological test trenching will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence from the National Monuments Service (DOHLGH). The trench layout should be informed by the preceding geophysical survey to target the areas of archaeological potential identified.
5. Should archaeological features or deposits be discovered during archaeological monitoring and archaeological testing, the extent of such features/deposits will be determined, a GPS location of the site will be established and works at this location will cease. A strategy will be proposed to the Local Authority and National Monuments Service to preserve the site in situ, where possible. Where preservation in situ cannot be achieved, either in whole or in part, then a programme of full archaeological excavation will be proposed, to ensure the preservation by record of the portion of the site that will be directly impacted upon. This work should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under license and in accordance with the provisions of the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014.
6. Where a section of an upstanding townland boundary must be removed a representative cross-section of the feature will be investigated and recorded by a suitably qualified archaeologist prior to removal.
7. The resulting archaeological report will be submitted to the County Archaeologist and to the National Monuments Service Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Please note all recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service and the Local Planning Authority Archaeologist.



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 29

Table 18 – Summary of impacts and impact magnitude after mitigation

Ch. No	Phase	Effect Type	Mitigation Measures	Magnitude of Effect after implementation of mitigation measures	Significance of Effect after implementation of mitigation measures
CH001	Construction	Indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">N/A	Moderate	Moderate
CH002	Construction	Indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">N/A	Moderate	Moderate
CH004	Construction	Indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">N/A	Moderate	Moderate
CH015	Construction	Indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">N/A	Moderate	Moderate
CH016	Construction	Indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">N/A	Moderate	Moderate
CH017	Construction	Indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">N/A	Moderate	Moderate
CH105	Construction	Indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mitigation 6	Moderate	Slight



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 30

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Archaeological Findings Summary

This archaeological assessment has identified 105 sites of archaeological, and/or cultural heritage significance within the defined study areas (see Section 1.2). These sites include 25 RMPs and 50 SMRs (CH001–CH075), two national monuments, Athenry Abbey (CH050), and the Athenry town defences (CH075), 29 previous archaeological excavations (CH076–CH104) and a townland boundary (CH105).

As currently laid out, the proposed housing development will have an indirect impact on the settings of six RMPs (CH001, CH002, CH004, CH015, CH016, CH017) and an indirect effect on one townland boundary (CH105). There is also the possibility of unknown subsurface remains within the proposed development.

6.2 Recommendations

It is recommended that the mitigation strategy outlined in Section 5 above be adopted. If the design of the proposed development is altered this assessment will need to be updated accordingly.

Please note all recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service and the local planning authority archaeologist.



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 31

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2020 *Standard and Guidance for Commissioning Work or Providing Consultancy Advice on Archaeology and the Historic Environment*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).

Cody, E. 1989 *An Archaeological Survey of the Barony of Athenry, Co. Galway*. University College Galway: Unpublished MA Thesis.

Collins, A. 2025 *Archaeological Impact Assessment Report Gort Mhaolir Housing Development, Athenry, Co. Galway*. Retrieved from Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit: <https://consult.galway.ie/en/system/files/matels/9288/PM-SF-113%20CHIA%20Gort%20Mhaolir%20Athenry%20Galway%2024193.pdf>

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

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH). 2022 *Heritage Ireland 2030: A Framework for Heritage*. Dublin: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. 2011 *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities*. Dublin: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2008 *National Policy on Town Defences*. Dublin.

Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. 2018 *Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on Carrying Out Environmental Impact Assessment*. Dublin: Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. 2004 *Architectural Heritage Guidelines*. Dublin: Stationary Office.

EirGrid. 2015 *Cultural Heritage Guidelines for Electricity Transmission Projects. A Stand Approach to Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of High Voltage Transmission Projects*. Dublin: EirGrid.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2003; Draft 2015 *Advice Notes on Current Practice (in the Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)*. Dublin: Environmental Protection Agency.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2017 *Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report*. Dublin: Environmental Protection Agency.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2022 *Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Statements*. Dublin: Environmental Protection Agency.



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 32

Galway County Council. 2022 *Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028*. Galway County Council.

Historic England. 2008 *Conservation Principles – Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment*. London: English Heritage.

Historic England. 2016 *Understanding Historic Buildings: a Guide to Good Practise*. London: English Heritage.

Historic England. 2017 *Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets, 2nd Edition*. London: English Heritage.

Knox, H. 1917-18 Ballygurraun and Raheen Group of Works in Earth and Stone. *Journal of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society*, 101-124.

Lewis, S. 1837 *The Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*. London: S. Lewis & Co.

Mohr, P. 2015 The De Berminghams, Barons of Athenry: Revised and Supplemented Lineage. *Journal of Galway Archaeological and Historical Society*, 46-68.

National Monuments Service (NMS). 2023 *National Monuments Service L Monument Class and Scope Notes*. Dublin: National Monuments Service (NMS).

National Monuments Service (NMS). (2008). *National Policy on Town Defences*. Dublin: National Monuments Service.

O'Sullivan, A., McCormick, F., Kerr, T., & Harney, L. 2013 *Early Medieval Ireland AD 400 - 1100: The Evidence from Archaeological Excavations*. Dublin: Royal Irish Academy.

Stout, M. 1997 *The Irish Ringfort*. Four Courts Press: Dublin.

Thompson, A. 2008 *Athenry Town Walls: Conservation and Management Plan*. Retrieved from Galway County Council: <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/images/Athenry-Town-Walls-Conservation-andManagement-Plan.pdf>.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). 2025 *Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of TII National; Road and Greenway Projects*. Dublin: Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

UNESCO Institute for Statistics. 2009 *UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics*. Montreal: UNESCO.

Cartographic Sources

OS 1841 Ordnance Survey of County Galway. 6-inch First Edition, [Irish Townland and Historical Map Viewer](#)

OS 1904 Ordnance Survey of County Galway. 25-inch Edition, [Irish Townland and Historical Map Viewer](#)

OS 1925 Ordnance Survey of County Galway. 6-inch Last Edition, [Irish Townland and Historical Map Viewer](#)



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page 33

Electronic resources

Geological Survey of Ireland 2019 *Open topographic data viewer* (<https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b7c4b0e763964070ad69bf8c1572c9f5>).

Google Maps. [Furzypark - Google Maps](#)

Irish Open Street Map 2022 *Irish Townlands* (<https://www.townlands.ie>).

Microsoft Bing Maps. [Páirc na hAbhainn, Gortnahown, County Galway, Ireland - Bing Maps](#)

National Archives 2024 *Griffith's Valuation, 1847–64*. (<https://www.nationalarchives.ie/article/valuation-office-records/>)

National Monuments Service 2024 *Historic Environment Viewer* (<https://heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=0c9eb9575b544081b0d296436d8f60f8>)

Samuel Lewis, 1837 *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*. (<http://www.libraryireland.com/topog/>)

Teagasc, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Cranfield Institute 2016 *Teagasc Soil Information System* (<http://gis.teagasc.ie/soils/index.php>)

The Down Survey of Ireland 2024 *Down Survey Maps* (<http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php>).



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page I

APPENDIX 1 INVENTORY OF IDENTIFIED SITES OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE AND/OR POTENTIAL WITHIN STUDY AREA

CH ID	Type	ID no.	Long Description/Details	Short Description	Townland	Baseline Value
CH001	RMP	GA084-027--- -	On a ridge in undulating pastureland. Described by Cody (1989, 178-80, no. 35) as a circular enclosure (diam. 70m) bisected by a road from roughly NNW to SSW. It is defined by an earthen bank (Wth 3m; int. H 0.8m; ext. H 1m) from E to S. To the W of the road the bank was only visible in the SW sector where it was greatly eroded (Wth max. 7m; int. H 0.4m; ext. H 0.6m); this is clearly visible on an aerial photograph taken in 1970 (CUCAP BDN 68). Otherwise no visible surface trace of the bank survived. The section to the monument to the E of the road is within a modern graveyard. There are two burials in the interior, both alongside each other. A modern stone cross stands at the head of the more easterly one. A large wooden crucifix stands 2m to the S. A number of burials have been placed along the outer face of the bank from E to S. Knox (1918, 121 no. 23) refers to the monument as 'Rathnacruacha'. Compiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 18 July 2019	Enclosure - large enclosure	FARRANABLAK E EAST	Very High
CH002	RMP	GA084-027001-	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. To access available information for research purposes please make an appointment in advance with the Archive Unit (open Fridays 10.00 am – 5.00 pm), Department of	Burial ground	BOYHILL	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page II

			Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, The Custom House, Dublin 1 D01W6XO or email nmarchive@chg.gov.ie.			
CH003	RMP	GA084-032--- -	In gently rolling pastureland. Marked on the OS 6-inch maps as a subcircular enclosure (c. 46m NW-SE; c. 35m NE-SW) cut from NE to SE by a road. Knox's plan (1918, 122, no. 24) suggests that it was defined by two banks and an intervening fosse. It was levelled sometime between 1970 and 1978 (Cody 1989, 276, no. 100). A house has been built on the site and no visible surface trace survives. Compiled by: Galway Archaeological Survey, UCG Date of upload: 5 March 2019	Ringfort - rath	BOYHILL	Very High
CH004	RMP	GA084-075--- -	On a S-facing slope in undulating pastureland. Poorly preserved subcircular rath (39m E-W; 34m N-S) defined by a bank which is overlain by a field wall at E. (Knox 1918b, 123) Compiled by: Galway Archaeological Survey, UCG Date of upload: 15 December 2017	Ringfort - rath	FARRANABLAK E EAST	Very High
CH005	RMP	GA084-101--- -	In low-lying reclaimed pastureland. In the summer of 1828 a local farmer pointed out 'an old Cist' to one of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland surveyors in the area. He had come across it 35 years previously. The cist was overground rather than underground and when opened it contained a crouched burial and an earthenware vase (Anon. 1928, 79). No visible surface trace survives. (de Valera and Ó Nualláin 1972, 28) Compiled by: Galway Archaeological Survey, UCG Date of upload: 14 November 2019	Cist	NEWFORD	Very High
CH006	RMP	GA084-102--- -	In arable land. Only a flattened area overgrown with thistles survived of a hachured feature marked on the 1933 edition of the OS 6-inch map on inspection in 1983. Cartographic evidence suggests that it was a quarry pit.	Quarry	NEWFORD	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page III

			As it is of post-AD 1700 date it does not come within the remit of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. Compiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 22 July 2014			
CH007	RMP	GA084-024--- -	This four-arch bridge, constructed of mortared stone, straddles the Graigueabbey River. It is c. 130m to the S of the site of the 'Spittle Gate', the S gateway to the medieval town of Athenry (GA084-001----). When initially visited in 1984 it was described as being in good condition: each arch was c. 2.3m wide at the base and two piers or breakwaters were visible on the upstream side. Wickerwork centring, indicating that the bridge has a medieval core, was noted in three of the arches, while the mortar bed in the fourth was in a very poor condition. The river just flowed through the latter most north-westerly arch. The bridge has been widened in more recent times, but was originally 3.25m wide. Since then the river has been widened and it now flows through the two most north-westerly arches; the other two arches are partially blocked. The uppermost part of a third pier or breakwater has been exposed by the removal of weeds and scrub around the base of the bridge (information from J. O'Sullivan 2009). Compiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 6 April 2017	Bridge	BAUNMORE	Very High
CH008	RMP	GA084-112--- -	On top of a hillock in pastureland. A hachured feature marked on the 1933 edition of the OS 6-inch map proved on inspection in 1983 to be a disused gravel pit. As it is of post-AD 1700 date it does not come within the remit of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. Compiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 22 July 2014	Quarry	PROSPECT (Athenry By.)	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page IV

CH009	RMP	GA084-080--- -	This single-arched bridge (L 3.9m; Wth 2.47m; H 1.55m) straddles a small E-W flowing stream and it appears to have been built on the line of an old roadway leading into Athenry town (GA084-001----) to the N. It is of modern construction. Compiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 4 April 2017	Bridge	GORTNAHOWN	Very High
CH010	SMR	GA084-021001-	This memorial stone is set into the roadside face of the wall to the left of the gate leading into the church (GA084-021----). It consists of a rectangular plaque (H 0.43m; Wth 0.33m; T 0.13m) bearing a male figure standing with raised, spread arms in the top left quarter and a kneeling figure, in profile, with raised hands joined and looking towards the standing figure in the top right quarter. The figures appear to represent Christ on the cross and Mary alongside (Cody 1989, 381-2, no. 166). The lower half of the plaque bears the following inscription: PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF THOMAS [O'KELLY/O'REILLY?] HIS WIFE MARY HYNES & THEIR POS TERITY WHO EREC[T] ED THIS IMAGE IN R[E] MEMBERANCE OF SA[I] NT BRIDGET 1728 Compiled by: Galway Archaeological Survey, UCG Date of upload: 24 January 2020	Memorial stone (present location)	BAUNMORE	Very High
CH011	RMP	GA084-021--- -	On a rise in undulating pastureland, c. 350m to the SSE of the town of Athenry (see GA084-001----). This poorly preserved rectangular church, which is aligned E-W, now stands in the front garden of a house close to a byroad. It is probably of medieval date and only the heavily ivy-covered W gable (int. L 5.9m; H c. 4.5m) and short returns of the N (int. L 0.6m; H 0.5m; wall T 0.8m) and S (int. L 1.3m; H 2.75m; wall T 1m) side-walls	Church	BAUNMORE	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page V

			survive. No architectural features are evident. An 18th-century wall monument (GA084-021001-) is set into the roadside face of the wall to the left of the gate leading into the church. (Cody 1989, 338-9, no. 152, 381-2, no. 166) Compiled by: Galway Archaeological Survey, UCG Date of upload: 24 January 2020			
CH012	RMP	GA084-023--- -	In wet marshy grassland. This fulacht fia is defined by a poorly preserved subcircular mound (10.7m NE-SW; 8.9m NW-SE; H 0.6-1.1m). The trough area is not clearly evident and this may be the result of disturbance caused by livestock which has resulted in areas of burnt stone and earth being exposed. (Cody 1989, 156-7, no. 11) Compiled by: Galway Archaeological Survey, UCG Date of upload: 18 November 2019	Fulacht fia	BAUNMORE	Very High
CH013	RMP	GA084-020--- -	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. To access available information for research	Well	BAUNMORE	Very High
CH014	RMP	GA084-074--- -	In grassland. Described by Cody (1989, 198-200, no. 49) as a poorly preserved circular rath (diam. 65m) defined by two banks and an intervening fosse. There was a wide causewayed gap (Wth 15m) at S and within the interior an internal division which cut off SE quadrant from the rest of the site. In 2011 the monument was damaged when the outer bank was levelled and the resulting material was pushed inwards to infill the fosse. (CUCAP BDN 64) Compiled by: Galway Archaeological Survey, UCG Date of upload: 15 December 2017	Ringfort - rath	FARRANABLAK E EAST	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page VI

CH015	RMP	GA084-073001-	Within the W half of a cashel (GA084-073---). This drystone-built souterrain (L c. 11m; Wth c. 1m) runs N-S. Though inaccessible, a visual inspection is possible through blocked-up breaches at both ends. Compiled by: Galway Archaeological Survey, UCG Date of upload: 12 December 2017	Souterrain	FARRANABLAK E EAST	Very High
CH016	RMP	GA084-073--- -	In undulating pastureland. Poorly preserved circular cashel (diam. 45m) defined by a collapsed drystone wall best preserved from WNW to NNW, elsewhere field walls overlie the enclosing element. A barn and water tank have been erected in the NE quadrant of the interior. There is a souterrain (GA084-073001-) in the SW quadrant. Compiled by: Galway Archaeological Survey, UCG Date of upload: 12 December 2017	Ringfort - rath	FARRANABLAK E EAST	Very High
CH017	RMP	GA084-072--- -	In level pastureland with rock outcrop. Poorly preserved circular rath (diam. 31m) defined by two banks and an intervening fosse. The inner bank is composed of earth; large slabs set on edge along its inner face do not appear to have formed a facing or revetment but rather a stone core upon which earth was heaped (Cody 1989, 198, no. 48). The fosse is visible all round and the outer bank survives from SSW through W to NNW. A gap (Wth 3m) at E may be original. (Knox 1918b, 123) Compiled by: Galway Archaeological Survey, UCG Date of upload: 12 December 2017	Ringfort - rath	FARRANABLAK E EAST	Very High
CH018	RMP	GA084-029--- -	In undulating pastureland. Poorly preserved subcircular rath (c. 34m E-W) defined by a bank, no visible surface trace of which survives from SE through S to W. Three field boundaries, which cut the monument at NNE, S and WNW, converge in the interior, just to E of centre.	Ringfort - rath	BOYHILL	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page VII

			Compiled by: Galway Archaeological Survey, UCG Date of upload: 6 January 2017			
CH019	RMP	GA084-028--- -	On a S-facing slope in pastureland. Subcircular rath (30m E-W; 28m N-S), in fair condition, defined by a bank best preserved at S and W. A wide gap (Wth c. 10m) is visible at NE. (Knox 1918b, 123) Compiled by: Galway Archaeological Survey, UCG Date of upload: 6 January 2017	Ringfort - rath	BOYHILL	Very High
CH020	RMP	GA096-089--- -	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. To access available information for research	Ringfort - cashel	FARRANABLAK E EAST	Very High
CH021	RMP	GA096-090--- -	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. To access available information for research	Ringfort - cashel	FARRANABLAK E EAST	Very High
CH022	SMR	GA084- 001055-	This rectangular graveslab (L 1.56m; Wth at top 0.74m; Wth at base 0.69m; T 0.11m) is at the W end of the aisle of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-) and is the third slab in a row of four – moving north-south from the N wall. The bottom left side is broken. An inscription running around its edges was transcribed by Macalister (1913, 215, XV, Fig. 8 No. 15) as: '(PRAY F) OR THE SOVLES OF HVGH HIGENN AND NOVLLE CONENN HIS WIFE AND HIS SON THO(M) AS HIGENN AND DONELL HIGENN AND THIRE POSTERTY 1684'. Within the frame provided by the inscription, the occupational symbols of a ploughman, a plough sock	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page VIII

			and coultter, are visible. (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 38-9)The following image has been uploaded: GA084-001055-01.jpgCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload: 12 November 2018			
CH023	SMR	GA084-001038-	This fragmentary tapering graveslab is the first of four in a line, running from N to S, at the W end of the aisle of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-). The slab is broken in two pieces and the ends of each portion are damaged. The upper portion (L 0.53m; Wth at top 0.55m; base Wth 0.65m; T 0.11m) bears a floriated cross head in relief and the lower portion (L 0.79m; Wth at top 0.57m; base Wth 0.46m; T 0.09m) bears the stem of the cross with traces of fleur de lys ornament at its base. Both pieces are bevelled. The decoration on the upper portion and the way it is tapering suggest that it has been set upside down. Another floriated graveslab (GA084-001037-) lies to its S. See also GA084-001034- to GA084-001036-. (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 34)The following images have been uploaded:GA084-001038-_01.jpgGA084-001038-_02.jpgCompiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 9 November 2018	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High
CH024	SMR	GA084-001037-	This tapering graveslab (L 1.37m; Wth across top 0.52m; base Wth 0.3m; T 0.12m) is the second in a group of four, moving from N to S, at the W end of the aisle. A broken example (GA084-001038-) lies to its N. The slab is decorated with a floriated cross and bears no inscription. Other similar graveslabs (See GA084-001034- to GA094-001037-) in the church are dated to the 13th/14th century (McKeon 2009 50, Fig. 19: Slab I). (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 34) The following images have been	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page IX

			uploaded:GA084-001037-_01.jpgGA084-001037-_02.jpgCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload: 9 November 2018			
CH025	SMR	GA084-001064-	This obliquely shouldered graveslab (L 1.52m; Wth across the top 0.75m; Wth across base 0.62m; T 0.1m) is to the W of the blocked doorway in the S wall of the nave of the church (GA084-001014-). Described by Macalister (1913, 217, XXIII, Pl. VIII, No. 9) as a 'recumbent slab with a plain cross on a calvary'. There is a plough sock on the sinister side of the stem of the cross and a coultter on its dexter side. There is no inscription. (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 40-41)The following image has been uploaded: GA084-001064-_01.jpgCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload: 12 November 2018	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High
CH026	SMR	GA084-001060-	This rectangular graveslab (L 1.85m; Wth 0.61m; T 0.11m) is the second slab to the N of the blocked doorway at the W end of the S wall of the nave of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-). It is broken in two pieces. It bears an incised Latin cross with expanded wedge-shaped terminals at the head and arms the stem ends on a calvary of three steps. An inscription above the cross reads: PRAY FOR THE SO/ VLE OF ROGER GR/ ANY AND HIS/ WIFE KATHERIN/ HIGIN AND THE/ IRE POSTERITY/ 1688 (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 40). The following images have been uploaded:GA084-001060-_01.jpgGA084-001060-_02.jpgCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload: 12 November 2018	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High
CH027	SMR	GA084-001082-	This tapering bevelled graveslab is in the nave of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-), to the N of the wall monument (GA084-001070-). The slab is incomplete – the	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page X

			head and base are missing. Both of the surviving fragments (upper fragment: L 0.59m; Wth across top 0.51m; base Wth 0.42m; lower fragment L 0.32m; Wth 0.32m; T 0.15m) are decorated with the raised stem of a cross and both have a raised border similar to another graveslab (see GA084-001034-) of 13th/14th-century date. The following images have been uploaded: GA084-001082-_01.jpg GA084-001082-_02.jpg Compiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 13 November 2018			
CH028	SMR	GA084-001072-	This wall monument (Wth 2m; H c. 1.9m; D 0.6m) is the easternmost example of three tomb niches (see also GA084-001070- and GA084-001071-) that are visible in the S wall of the nave of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-). A double piscina is visible to its E. Apart from moulded column stones and a decorated terminal stone all the stonework has been removed. When Macalister (1913 208-9) visited the site only the western jamb and the spring of the arch above it were visible as it was concealed by masonry and a modern altar tomb; the latter has also been removed. The three niches display elements of Romanesque and Transitional architecture, including foliage, nail-head, chevron and cable designs, which suggest that they date to the initial construction phase of the church c. 1241 (McKeon 2009, 38). (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 32) The following image has been uploaded: GA084-001072-_01.jpg Compiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 12 November 2018	Wall monument	ATHENRY	Very High
CH029	SMR	GA084-001071-	This wall monument (Wth 2.41m; D 0.53m) is the middle example of three tomb niches (see also GA084-001070- and GA084-001072-) that are visible in the S wall of the	Wall monument	ATHENRY	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XI

			<p>nave of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-). The lower part was composed of three trefoil-headed arches that were probably supported on columns similar to those visible in the example to its S. The three moulded quatrefoil openings inserted in the wall above it encroach on the fourth of the series of lancet windows that light the nave. The mouldings on the sedilia in the N wall of the chancel are so similar in style to it that it lead Macalister (1913, 209) to believe that the latter was another tomb niche but unlike tomb niches the sedilia does not extend to the ground level but sits 0.5m above it (McKeon 2009, 33). The three niches display elements of Romanesque and Transitional architecture, including foliage, nail-head, chevron and cable designs, which suggest that they date to the initial construction phase of the church c. 1241 (ibid., 38). (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 32)The following image was uploaded: GA084-001071-01.jpgCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload: 12 November 2018</p>			
CH030	SMR	GA084-001070-	<p>This wall monument is a tomb niche (Wth 3.12m; H 2.66m; D 0.53m) and is the westernmost example of three (see also GA084-001071- and GA084-001072-) that are visible in the S wall of the nave of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-). Described by Macalister (1913, 208) as 'a handsome structure of three three-centred moulded arches, supported on slender columns'. The three niches display elements of Romanesque and Transitional architecture, including foliage, nail-head, chevron and cable designs, which suggest that they date to the initial construction phase of the church c. 1241 (McKeon 2009,</p>	Wall monument	ATHENRY	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XII

			38). (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 38)The following image has been uploaded: GA084-001070-_01.jpgCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload: 12 November 2018			
CH031	SMR	GA084-001075-	This is one of two identical tomb niches (see also GA084-001074-) in the N wall of the aisle that date to the 15th century. Unfortunately most of the dressed stones are missing in this example (Wth 2.08m; H 2.22m; D 0.38m). The intact example to its E indicates that it consisted of 'two low ogee arches, underneath equilateral arches; the openings are richly moulded and cusped' (Macalister 1913, 209). (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 33)The following image has been uploaded: GA084-001075-_01.jpgCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload: 12 November 2018	Wall monument	ATHENRY	Very High
CH032	SMR	GA084-001074-	This is one of two identical tomb niches (see also GA084-001075-) in the N wall of the aisle that date to the 15th century. This example (Wth 2.04m; H 2.18m; D 0.38m), at the E end of the wall, remains intact. It consists of 'two low ogee arches, underneath equilateral arches; the openings are richly moulded and cusped' (Macalister 1913, 209, Fig. 6). (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 33) The following image has been uploaded: GA084-001074-_01.jpgCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload: 12 November 2018	Wall monument	ATHENRY	Very High
CH033	SMR	GA084-001066-	When recorded by Macalister (1913, Pl. I) this graveslab was the third of four lying inside the doorway of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-). It has since been moved and is now lying in the E end of the aisle, in front of the wall monument (GA084-001074-). The slab (L c. 1.87m; base Wth 0.69m; Wth across top 0.32m; T 0.16m)	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XIII

			is broken in two pieces. Described by Macalister (ibid., 212, VI, Pl. VIII, No. 7) a coffin-shaped shouldered slab bearing an anvil in relief and an incised hammer. No inscription is evident. (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 41)The following images have been uploaded:GA084-001066-_01.jpgGA084-001066-_02.jpgCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload: 12 November 2018			
CH034	SMR	GA084-001079-	This broken graveslab (surviving L 1.09m; max. Wth 0.56m) is located in the nave of the Dominican church (GA084-001) close to the easternmost pier of the aisle arcade. Both ends and the top right side are broken. The slab is bevelled and traces of a raised cross are visible. An illustration by McKeon (2009, 50, Fig. 16: Slab F) indicates that the left terminal ended in a fleur-de-lis motif and a central roundel was also decorated with a cross. The stem extending below the roundel bears a bulbous protrusion and tendrils. The following images have been uploaded:GA084-001079-_01.jpgGA084-001079-_02.jpgCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload: 13 November 2018	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High
CH035	SMR	GA084-001035-	This tapering graveslab (L 1.89m; Wth across top 0.63m; Wth across bottom 0.37m; T 0.11m) is broken in two pieces. When recorded by Macalister (1913, 212, XI, Pl. VII, No. 3) it was complete and he described it as a 'coffin-shaped slab, with a floriated cross'. There was no inscription on it. He suggested a date of c. 1680 but McKeon (2009, 50, Fig. 18: Slab H, 51) believes it is earlier and dates to the 13th or 14th century. It is lying at the E end of the aisle – just to the N of the arcade. This slab is similar to another in the NE corner of the transept (see	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XIV

			GA084-001038-). See also GA084-001034- and GA084-001036- to GA084-001038-. (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 34; McKeon 2009, 51, Fig. 18: Slab H)The following image has been uploaded: GA084-001035-_01.jpgCompiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 9 November 2018			
CH036	SMR	GA084-001077-	In the nave of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-), to the N of the middle wall monument (GA084-001071-). Described by Macalister (1913, 217, XXII) as a graveslab (L 1.93m; Wth across top 0.59m; Wth across base 0.52m; T 0.1m) inscribed with the following: 'Pray for the soul of William Burke and his wife Anne alias Ward and their Posterity' and dated to c. 1700. The following image has been uploaded: GA084-001077-_01.jpgCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload: 13 November 2018	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High
CH037	SMR	GA084-001063-	This tapering graveslab (L 1.54m; Wth at top 0.54m; base Wth 0.38m; T 0.12m) is broken in two pieces and a chunk of the bottom part of the lower piece is missing. When described by Macalister (1913, 217, XXI, Pl. VIII, No. 6) it was complete but much worn. It was decorated with an incised plough sock and coulter and an inscription on the sinister side read: DANIEL NOLAN 1700 (ibid.), the latter is now illegible. This slab is to the N of the second wall monument (GA084-001071-) in the S wall of the nave of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-). (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 40-41)The following image has been uploaded: GA084-001063-_01.jpgCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload: 12 November 2018	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High
CH038	SMR	GA084-001062-	In the nave of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-), this graveslab (L 1.9m; Wth across the top 0.8m; Wth 0.77	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XV

			across base; T 0.12m) is the 2nd slab to the N of the wall monument (GA084-001071-). The bottom-right corner is broken off. Traces of an incised ringed cross, with 'arms ending in rude flouriations' (Macalister 1913, 212, V, Pl. VII No. 1)', are visible as well as a coultter on the sinister side and plough sock on the dexter side. There is no inscription. Macalister (ibid.) suggested a date of c. 1650. (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 40-41)The following image has been uploaded: GA084-001062-_01.jpgCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload: 12 November 2018			
CH039	SMR	GA084-001057-	This tapering graveslab (L 1.74m; Wth at top 0.6m; Wth at base 0.29m; T 0.12m), is in the nave of the church (GA084-001014-), opposite the console on the S side, and was described by Macalister (1913, 215, XVII, Pl. VIII, No. 10) as a 'slab with flouriated cross much defaced, with the lower end broken away.' He transcribed an inscription, in three lines, on the sinister side, as 'FOR THE VSE OF OWEN CRAW(ley) AND CATHERIN MONAGHAN AND (their) POSTERITY 1686'. A plough sock and coultter are visible on the dexter side. It is most likely that this slab dates to the 13th/14th century and was reused in the 17th-century when the inscription and occupational symbols were added. (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 39; Mckeon 2009, 51; Fig. 21: Slab K)The following image has been uploaded: GA084-001057-_01.jpgCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload: 12 November 2018	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High
CH040	SMR	GA084-001084-	This fragment of a graveslab (H 1.13m; Wth across top 0.78m; base Wth 0.82m; T 0.15m) is pinned against the W wall of the lateral aisle off the transept of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-), just to the N of the window. The	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XVI

			face bears the stem of an incised cross on a calvary of three steps. Occupational symbols for a ploughman are visible on either side of the cross, a coulter on left side and a plough sock on the right side. The sides of the slab are chamfered and traces of an indecipherable inscription are evident on both edges of it. A number of similar slabs in the church have been dated to the 17th century – see GA084-001055- and GA084-001062- to GA084-001064-. Another 17th-century slab (GA084-001047-) is pinned to the wall to the S of the window. The following image has been uploaded: GA084-001084_01.jpg Compiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 13 November 2018			
CH041	SMR	GA084-001083-	This fragment of a possible wall monument is now lying on the ground immediately to the N of the doorway that accessed the transept of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-). When Macalister (1913, 220) visited the site it was lying loose at the E end of the chancel. He believed it was part of a debased altar tomb dating to the late 17th century. It is decorated with floral devices sunk in square panels and it also depicts the E and W windows of the church. Regarding the depiction of the E window, Crawford (1920, 66-7) pointed out that while the carving has four mullions the actual window only had three. He also noted that it was unusual to see the representation of windows used for decoration. The following image has been uploaded: GA084-001083_02.jpg Compiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 13 November 2018	Wall monument	ATHENRY	Very High
CH042	SMR	GA084-001076-	This tapering graveslab is at the base of the W end of the repositioned wall monument (GA084-001073-) in the	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XVII

			<p>transept of the Dominican church (GA094-001014-). Two of the arcade pillars are resting on it. The slab (L 1.8m; Wth at top 0.46m; base Wth 0.26m) is broken in two pieces and its outer edge, head and base are also damaged. It is decorated with an incised cross. Four circles make up the cross-head and fleur de lis terminals extend off it on each side and at the top. A long stem extending to the base ends in another broken fleur de lis terminal. It most likely dates to the late 13th/early 14th century (McKeon 2009, 46, 50, Fig. 15: Slab E).The following images have been uploaded:GA084-001076-01.jpg - graveslab at base of wall monument (GA084-001073-)GA084-001076-02.jpg - detail of cross headGA084-001076-03.jpg - detail of stem of crossGA084-001076-04.jpg - detail of broken fleur de lis terminal at baseCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload: 12 November 2018</p>			
CH043	SMR	GA084-001058-	<p>This rectangular wall plaque (Wth 1.07m; H 1.4m) is set into the N window in the transept. It bears a shield with an inscription on each side and below it. It was transcribed by Macalister (1913, 215, XVIII) as: 'PRAY FOR THE SOVLE OF Pt OLIVE R. BRO WNE ESQR OF CVL ARAN AND IVLIAN LYN CH HIS WIFE WHO EREC TED THIS MONUMENT FOR THEM AND THEIR POSTE RITY ANODNI 18686'. The shield bears an eagle with two heads for Browne and a chevron between three trefoils for Lynch (ibid.) (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 39)The following image has been uploaded: GA084-001058-01.jpgCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload: 12 November 2018</p>	Wall monument	ATHENRY	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XVIII

CH044	SMR	GA084-001073-	<p>This composite wall monument (Wth c. 7m; H 1.68-1.72m) spans the entire width of the N wall of the transept of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-). It appears to have been moved from its original location and reconstructed here. Its W end overlies a 13th/14th-century graveslab (GA084-001076-) and the NE wall of the transept has been obliquely cut away to accommodate its E end. Macalister (1913, 209) believed this was a series of three tombs: the W and central ones had three arches and the E one had two. The first two tombs were separated by a narrow pier while a wide pier separated these from the E tomb. Macalister's (ibid., Pl. 1 and X b) ground plan and photograph reflect this lay-out. His photograph indicates that almost all of the arch stones and one pillar of W tomb had been removed. These have since been reinstated and a third arch has been inserted between the middle and E tomb. The tombs may have been originally located in the nave or chancel of the church (Mckeon 2009, 46). Another wall monument (GA084-001058---) has been inserted above the central tomb. (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 33)The following images have been uploaded: GA084-001073-_01.jpg - overall view of wall monumentGA084-001073-_05.jpg - graveslab (GA084-001076-) at base of W end of wall monumentCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload: 12 November 2018</p>	Wall monument	ATHENRY	Very High
CH045	SMR	GA084-001034-	<p>In the NE corner of the transept of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-), to the S of the wall monument (GA084-001073-). This broken tapering graveslab (L 1.46m; Wth across the top 0.51m; Wth across broken end 0.36m; T</p>	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XIX

			0.08m) is described by Macalister (1913, 212, X; Pl. VII, No. 5) as a slab with a floriated cross inside a raised border which ends in spirals in each corner. Macalister (ibid.) noted that this type of slab was common in the church but that this example was slightly more ornate than the others. He suggested a date of c. 1680 but McKeon (2009, 50, Fig. 20: Slab J, 51) believes it is earlier and dates to the 13th or 14th century. See also GA084-001035- toGA084-001038-). (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 34; McKeon 51, Fig. 18: Slab H)The following image has been uploaded: GA084-001034-_01.jpgCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload: 9 November 2018			
CH046	SMR	GA084-001061-	This rectangular graveslab (L 1.59m; Wth 0.62m; T 0.16m) is the northernmost example in a row of three on the N side of the site of the tower. Its lower end (L 0.6) is chamfered on each side. It bears an inscription commemorating two couples and reads 'PRAY FOR THE SOVLE (of) WILLIAM BOYNE AND HIS WIFE: IOCNESE [sic] BODAN AND SARA MORAN: AND HIS CHIDREN, 1697. IHS MARIA'. A complete plough is carved beneath the inscription and then the name 'IAMES ROVAN' (Macalister (1913, 217, XX, Fig. 8, No. 16). (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 40)The following image has been uploaded: GA084-001061-_01.jpgCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload: 12 November 2018	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High
CH047	SMR	GA084-001054-	This graveslab was decorated with a plough-sock and coulter and bore the following marginal inscription: PRAY FOR THE SOVLES OF HUGH/ THOMAS/ DERMAD AND EDMVND FYNNE AND/ THIR POSTERITIE 1684 (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 38). Not	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XX

			located. Compiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 12 November 2018			
CH048	SMR	GA084-001051-	Under the crossing tower of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-), close to its SW pier. This broken rectangular graveslab (surviving L 1.39m; Wth 0.89m; T 0.12m) bears 'a cross pattée, with long stem, and a number of smith's tools' (Macalister 1913, 214, XIII, 219, Pl. IX, No. 13). Two bellows are visible on the dexter side, and on the sinister side there is an augur, pincers, anvil, horseshoe, and a hook-shaped object'. It is dated 1682 and an inscription at the top of the slab and sinister edge reads: 'FOR THE VSE OF THOMAS TANIAN AND HIS (POSTERITY)' (ibid.). (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 37)The following images have been uploaded: GA084-001051-_01.jpgGA084-001051-_02.jpgCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload: 12 November 2018	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High
CH049	SMR	GA084-001043-	According to Bradley and Dunne (1992, 34), there were two decorated fragments of the panel of a late-15th/early-16th-century tomb in the Dominican church (GA084-001014-). One bore an ecclesiastic, the other an angel. A third fragment, representing St Dominic, was stolen from the church and is missing. These fragments were not located on inspection in October 2018. Compiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 9 November 2018	Wall monument	ATHENRY	Very High
CH050	SMR/NM	GA084-001014-	This Dominican priory, dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul, is located on the E bank of the Clarin River, in the NE of quarter of the medieval town of Athenry (GA084-014----). It is c. 190m to the S of the medieval castle (GA084-001006-) and c. 160m to the SE of the parish church (GA084-001005-). It occupies the SW end of an	Religious house - Dominican friars	ATHENRY	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XXI

			<p>associated graveyard (GA084-001025-). The priory was founded in 1241 by Meiler de Birmingham and received significant patronage from local Anglo-Norman and Gaelic lords. The survival of a manuscript known as the 'Register of the Dominican Order of Athenry', which is now housed in the British Museum but was published by Coleman (1912, 201-21), has made it possible to identify various patrons and to help trace its structural development. The church became a celebrated burial place for its founder and his descendants, as well as several bishops of Clonfert and Kilmacduagh. Thirty friars are recorded as being here in 1445. The priory was granted to the Earl of Clanricard in 1568 by Elizabeth 1 and subsequently to the town of Athenry in 1574. During the latter year both it and the town were sacked by Clanricarde's sons. In 1595 friars reoccupied the buildings but the town and priory suffered severely in the wars at the end of that century (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 221-2). In the 18th century it was gutted to provide materials for the military barracks that that formerly stood to its south (www.monastic.ie last accessed 22 October 2018). The barracks has since been demolished and a terrace of houses now occupies this area. The very well-preserved church is the only surviving feature of the priory; no visible surface traces of the domestic buildings or cloister survive. The church consists of the nave and chancel (int. L 45.45m; Wth 7.6m), the northern aisle and transept, and the sacristy on the south side. The site of the crossing tower between the nave and chancel is marked by the two southern piers of the arches that</p>			
--	--	--	--	--	--	--



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XXII

			<p>would have supported it. All the walls survive to their original height. The first detailed study of the church was carried out by Macalister (1913, 197-222) who suggested that there were three main building phases. The nave and chancel (int. L 45.45m; int. Wth 7.6m) were built during the initial phase of construction that started in 1241. The northern aisle and transept were added c. 1324, when reconstruction work at that time included 'enlarging the choir twenty feet' by knocking the original east gable and extending the north and south walls of the chancel eastwards (ibid., 201, Fig. 1). The tower was subsequently added c. 1425. Later writers including Leask (1960, 126-8) and Conlan (2002, 218-19) agreed with this phasing. A more recent survey by McKeon (2009, 24-56) argues that the aisle and transept may have been added during the late 13th or early 14th century. McKeon further suggests that the chancel was never extended to the east but that the choir was enlarged by moving the rood screen further to the W. During this phase the W gable was rebuilt. When the tower was added in the last major building phase in the 15th century, a number of windows were replaced, some doorways were blocked and the aisle arcade was reduced. No visible trace of the original W doorway that would have accessed the church survives. Both it and half of the later 14th-century four-light tracery window above it were blocked up and plastered over in the 19th century when the external gable wall was incorporated into a handball alley. The six pointed lancet windows and three wall monuments (GA084-001070-, GA084-</p>			
--	--	--	--	--	--	--



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XXIII

			<p>001071- and GA084-001072-) in the S wall of the nave date to the mid-13th century and are original features. The most easterly lancet was truncated and partially blocked when the tower was built. The double piscina between the most easterly wall monument (GA084-001073-) and the tower suggests that there was formerly an altar in this area and that it was also removed when the tower was built (McKeon 2009, 39). Two blocked doorways in the S wall of the nave, one towards its W end the other in recess between the piers of the tower, would have formerly accessed the W range and cloister of the priory. The other features in the nave are later in date and include a 16th-century round-headed statue niche above a moulded and decorated consul (Bradley and Dunne 1990, 32) and a 17th-century half-hexagonal protruding feature or viewing loft. The seven lancets in the north wall of the chancel are identical to those in the nave. The westernmost example was blocked up when the transept was added. The triple-arched cusped sedilia (Wth 2.4m) is an original feature and its similar design to the wall monument (GA084-001071-) in the S wall of the nave suggested to Macalister (1913, 209) that it was another tomb niche but unlike the tomb niches its base does not extend to ground level but sits 0.5m above it (McKeon 2009, 31-3). The central columns that supported the arches and most of the moulded stones of the arches themselves have been removed. The remains of a carved head visible on the terminal of the arch hood on the W side suggest it might be that of a bishop (ibid.). Three steps subdivide the chancel, marking off the choir from</p>			
--	--	--	--	--	--	--



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XXIV

			<p>the area where the high altar stood under the four-light switchline tracery east window. This window, which was inserted in the 15th or 16th century, replaced an earlier larger five-light example. The outline and fragments of the tracery of the latter window, which indicate a 13th or 14th-century date, are visible in the gable wall. At the top of the gable the lower portion of a single-light window is visible. Twin-light trefoil-headed windows at the east end of the N and S walls lit the altar area. A 15th-century canopied altar tomb (GA084-001044-) is visible in the north wall. A pointed doorway in the south wall of the choir accessed the sacristy. The latter room is lit by a triple-light ogee-headed window with a hood-moulding in the E wall. Numerous architectural fragments are now kept in it. The northern aisle was separated from the nave by an arcade of five arches, three of which survive. The original arches and those of the lateral aisle off the transept were taller and rested on circular columns. They were subsequently partially blocked up and during this phase of construction the columns were encased in the later fabric. A blocked-up pointed arch doorway is visible at the W end of the N wall of the aisle. A two-light tracery window is visible in the W wall and two similar windows survive in the north wall. Two further wall monuments (GA084-001074- and GA084-001075-) are located between the latter windows. The tracery in the eastern example is indicative of a 15th century date. Most of the tracery in the western example is gone but the surviving sections indicate it was identical to the eastern one. The main</p>			
--	--	--	---	--	--	--



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XXV

			feature of the north transept is the large reconstructed four-light tracery window in the N wall. Below it a composite wall monument (GA084-00173-) spans the entire width of the wall. Macalister (1913, 203) believed this was not an architectural ornament but rather three separate 'sepulchral monuments'. The fact that the W end of it overlies a graveslab (GA084-00176-), and the E wall of the transept was reconfigured to accommodate its E end, suggest that it was formerly located elsewhere in the nave or chancel. Two twin-light switchline tracery windows are visible in the E wall; the northern one is a modern replacement (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 33). A sketch by Bigari (Grose 1791) indicates that the blocked doorway visible below this window was open in the late 18th century. The doorway to the lateral aisle on the W side of the transept is composed of two orders and is pointed. This doorway is now the only means of accessing the church since the original west doorway was blocked up. This aisle is lit by a twin-light cusped window in the W wall. The arcade on the E side that separates it from the transept would			
CH051	SMR	GA084-001042-	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. To access available information for research	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High
CH052	SMR	GA084-001041-	The Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) is in the process of providing information on all monuments on The Historic Environment Viewer (HEV). Currently the	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XXVI

			information for this record has not been uploaded. To access available information for research			
CH053	SMR	GA084-001032-	<p>This tombstone is centrally placed in the W half of the chancel of the church of the Dominican priory (GA084-001014-), to the E of the massive late 18th-century tomb of Lady Matilda Birmingham. It was uncovered during cleaning operations in the 1970s and is believed to have marked the grave of Meiler de Bermingham, 2nd Baron and founder of Athenry town (GA084-001----). Meiler's castle (GA084-001006-) is situated c. 190m to the N and as part of his development plan of the new town he introduced the Dominicans in 1241. He died near Cashel in 1252 but his body was brought back to Athenry to be buried close to the high altar (Rynne 1987-8, 116). The slab (L 2.08m; Wth at W end 0.52m; Wth at E end 0.29m) is trapezoidal in plan and tapers in height from its western (H 0.34m) to eastern (0.22m) end. It is broken almost mid-way across its length. The gable-like ends incline slightly towards the flat ridged top and each bears a plain Latin cross in high relief. The stone is undecorated; the irregular crack-like grooves appear to be due to natural weathering (ibid). (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 33-4; McKeon 51, Pl. 30)The following images have been uploaded:GA084-001032-_01.jpgGA084-001032-_02.jpgGA084-001032_03.jpgGA084-001032-_04.jpgCompiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 9 November 2018</p>	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High
CH054	SMR	GA084-001050-	<p>This rectangular graveslab (L 1.22m; Wth 0.62m; T 0.1m) is in the chancel of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-), close to the S end of the W side of Lady Matilda</p>	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XXVII

			<p>Bermingham's late 18th-century tomb. When recorded by Macalister (1913, Pl. 1) it was located on the S side of the tomb, close to its W end. An inscription, which is in relief and with many of the letters ligatured, reads: 'HERE: LYES : BRIDGED AND : MARY : BERMING HAM: DAUGHTERS : TO EDWARD : LORD : BARON OF ATHENRY: AND THE : LADY : MARY : BVKE HIS : WIFE. THEY : DYED IN : THEIR : INFANCY : IN 1676 : AND : 1677' (ibid., 212, IX). (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 36-7)The following images have been uploaded:GA084-001050-_01.jpgGA084-001050-_02.jpgCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload: 12 November 2018</p>			
CH055	SMR	GA084-001078-	<p>This rectangular bevelled graveslab (surviving L 1.08m; Wth 0.49m; T 0.1m) is located in the chancel of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-) close to the NW corner of the late 18th-century tomb of Lady Matilda de Bermingham. It is broken in two pieces and the base of it is missing. Traces of an incised Latin cross are evident: on the westerly portion the head and arms of the cross end in stylized fleur-de-lis ornament and on the easterly portion the stem of the cross is visible (McKeon 2009, 50, Fig. 14: Slab D).The following images have been uploaded:GA084-001079-_01.jpgGA084-001079-_02.jpgCompiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 13 November 2018</p>	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High
CH056	SMR	GA084-001046-	<p>This graveslab is in the chancel of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-) and is 0.83m to the S of the N wall and 0.87m N of Lady Matilda de Bermingham's tomb. It has been moved since recorded by Macalister (1913, Pl. I).</p>	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XXVIII

			<p>The rectangular slab (L 1.82m; Wth across the top 0.87m; Wth across base 0.8m; T 0.21m), with a small shouldered projection (Wth 0.48m; H 0.15m) at the top, tapers gently towards its base. The sides are bevelled. The surface is elaborately decorated and Macalister (ibid., 210, II, Pl. IX, No. 12) described it as 'a floriated cross-head, with a plain stem, ending below in a handsome interlacing pattern.' The cross is flanked with the initials IHS and a lozenge-shaped ornament on the dexter side and by three animals and a peculiar ornament of curves enclosing the figure eight on the sinister side. The projection bears an inscription that reads: 'ION BVRKE 1627' and round the margin is the legend: 'THIS IS THE TOMB OF ION BVRKE AND OF HIS ANCESTORS AND KATHREN BVRKE HIS WIFE OF 12 OF 10BER 1627' (ibid.). (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 35) The following images have been uploaded: GA084-001046-01.jpg GA084-001046-02.jpg Compiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 12 November 2018</p>			
CH057	SMR	GA084-001056-	<p>Described by Macalister (1913, 215, XVI), who dated it to 1686, as 'a fragment lying on the step of the sanctuary, with the following letters in raised capitals: 'IHS PRAY FOR THE SOVLE OF FLOR ENCE HEYNE WHOE DEYED THE 24 OF MAR CH 86 THIS M ...ITRE'. It could not be located on inspection in October 2018. (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 39) Compiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 12 November 2018</p>	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High
CH058	SMR	GA084-001080-	<p>This graveslab is now stored in the SE corner of the sacristy of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-). The slab is broken at both ends but the surviving tapering</p>	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XXIX

			fragment (H 0.6m; Wth across the top 0.49m; base Wth 0.46m; T 0.09m) is incised with the shaft of a cross . The following image has been uploaded: GA084-001080-01.jpgCompiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 13 November 2018			
CH059	SMR	GA084-001081-	This fragment of a possible wall monument is now stored in the NE corner of the sacristy of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-). It is roughly shaped (max. Wth 0.3m; H 0.23m) and the flat face is inscribed in false relief with the following incomplete inscription: AS EREC 1690 FI KILL KELL – the slab is lying in front of the shaft of a memorial cross (GA084-001067-).The following image has been uploaded: GA084-001081-01.jpgCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload: 13 November 2018	Wall monument	ATHENRY	Very High
CH060	SMR	GA084-001067-	This fragment of the shaft of a memorial cross is now stored in the NE corner of the sacristy of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-). The piece (H 0.54m; Wth 0.25m; T 0.18m) is rectangular in shape and tapers slightly towards the base. A shallow socket (L 0.07m; Wth 0.01m; D 0.09) visible on its head indicates that another piece was attached. All four corners are rounded and each side has a raised panel, three are plain and one is inscribed with the IHS monogram and the following inscription in relief: IHS M THIS CROSS WAS M ADE BY JAMES BACC AGH COIL - the top line is incomplete due to damage. The word baccagh means lame and Crawford (1920, 66-7) suggested that it was included in the name as a mark of identity. A fragment of a wall plaque (GA084-001081-) is lying in front of it. (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 41)The following images have	Cross	ATHENRY	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XXX

			been uploaded: GA084-001067-_01.jpgGA084-001067-_02.jpgCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload			
CH061	SMR	GA084-001053-	This wall plaque (Wth 0.85m; H 0.99m), in the S wall of the chancel, bears a shield and the following inscription transcribed by Macalister (1913, 215, XIV) as: 'HEERLYES THE BODY OF SIR IOHN BVRKE OF DERRIMAGH LAGNIE KNIT DECEASED IN THE YEEARE OF HIS AGE 1666 THIS TOMB WAS ERECTED FOR HIM AND HIS POSTERITIE BY HIS WIDOW THE LADY MARY BVRKE NOW BARRONESS OF ATHENRY IN 1683'. (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 38) The following image has been uploaded: GA084-001053-_01.jpgCompiled by: Olive AlcockDate of upload: 12 November 2018	Wall monument	ATHENRY	Very High
CH062	SMR	GA084-001049-	This graveslab was one of two (see also GA084-001033-) recorded by Macalister (1913, 212, VIII) under the sedilia. It bore the following inscription: 'PRAY FOR THE SOVLES OF (THE) VERY REVEREND FATHERS DOCTOR THOMAS BVKE [sic] AND FA. IOHN BVRKE WHO CAUSED THIS STONE TO BE MADE FOR THEMSELVES AND THE FAMILIES OF MACWALTER 1676'. Not located on inspection in October 2018. (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 36) Compiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 12 November 2018	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High
CH063	SMR	GA084-001052-	When recorded by Macalister (1913, 220-21), this wall plaque was centrally located within the sedilia in the N wall of the chancel of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-). It has since been moved and is now on the wall to the W of the sedilia. The slab (Wth 0.83m; H 1m; T 0.06n) is rectangular in shape and is fractured at the bottom left corner. It bears an inscription in English,	Wall monument	ATHENRY	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XXXI

			French and Latin as well as a shield depicting a lion rampant and a Latin cross, an esquire's helmet and mantling and a right hand bearing a sword. According to Macalister (ibid.), the inscription defies direct translation due to the fact the writer did not have sufficient knowledge of French or Latin. His attempt at it reads: 'The mistcall sense of the armes [are] in this verse Pour honneur de conquérant, Et un illustre marque de glor, Il voieut q[u]e le lion rempennt, Porta le pris de leur victoire. Here is the antient sepulchre of the sept of Walls of Droghy, late demolished by Cromellians, and now reedified by Walter Wall fich Peeter (i.e. mhic Peadair, son of Peter) of the said sept, for his oune and posterities use; Ano Domni 1682. Insignia hujus family[a]e Crux et Leo: et notat H --- sus n[o?] bilis antiquum retniet (sir) gens Vallia stema (sic) nam leo magnanimam cu---'. (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 37-8) The following image has been uploaded: GA084-001052-01.jpg Compiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 12 November 2018			
CH064	SMR	GA084-001033-	Recorded by Macalister (1913, 212, III, Pl. IX, No. 14) who suggested a date c. 1630 and described it as a 'handsome floriated cross, with a lozenge-shaped body and long stem: the base is concealed by the sedilia, under which the stone runs. There is no inscription.' This slab could not be located on inspection in October 2018. Compiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 9 November 2018	Graveslab	ATHENRY	Very High
CH065	SMR	GA084-001044-	This wall monument consists of a canopied altar tomb (Wth 2.44m) that is located on the N side of the choir of the Dominican church (GA084-001014-). The front of the	Wall monument	ATHENRY	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XXXII

			<p>altar was divided into five panels capped by ogee-headed arches. The richly moulded soaring arch above this was formerly filled with tracery but only the springing stones now survive. It was framed by pinnacles; that on the E side is missing. Also on the E side the figure of the Virgin and Child with two dolphins above is carved in low relief on a jambstone. The 'curious group of scratches' recorded by Macalister (1913, 209-10, Fig. 7) on another jambstone were not visible. McKeon (2009, 31) suggests a 15th or 16th-century date on the basis of the fabric and dressing. (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 34-5) The following images have been uploaded: GA084-001044_02.jpg Detail of Virgin and Child GA084-001044_03.jpg Overall view of wall monument</p> <p>Compiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 9 November 2018</p>			
CH066	SMR	GA084-109001-	This is a railway embankment. Compiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 22 April 2015	Redundant record	PROSPECT (Athenry By.)	Low
CH067	SMR	GA084-109002-	This is a railway embankment. Compiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 22 April 2015	Redundant record	PROSPECT (Athenry By.)	Low
CH068	RMP	GA084-110--- -	This record relates to a fair green. It is not an archaeological monument. Compiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 22 April 2015	Redundant record	PROSPECT (Athenry By.)	Low
CH069	RMP	GA084-111--- -	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. To access available information for research	Cross	PROSPECT (Athenry By.)	Very High
CH070	RMP	GA084-113--- -	The Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) is in the process of providing information on all monuments on	Road - road/trackway	PROSPECT (Athenry By.)	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XXXIII

			The Historic Environment Viewer (HEV). Currently the information for this record has not been uploaded. To access available information for research			
CH071	RMP	GA084-001017-	In flat pastureland c. 40m to the E of the Clarin River and within the medieval walled town of Athenry (GA084-001----). Named 'Moor Well' on the 1933 edition of the OS 6-inch map, this roughly subcircular well (0.77m N-S; 0.72m E-W; D 0.7m) is defined by a drystone wall (With 0.5m), three to four courses high. A small gap at W access it. On inspection the well was dry. A spa well (GA084-001016-) lies c. 168m to the NNE. Compiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 13 November 2019	Well	ATHENRY	Very High
CH072	SMR	GA084-001021-	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. To access available information for research	Dovecote	ATHENRY	Very High
CH073	SMR	GA084-001018-	This record relates to placename evidence and not an archaeological monument. An area within Athenry town (GA084-001----) is named 'Leper Compound (Disused)' on the 1933 edition of the OS 6-inch map. Bradley and Dunne (1990, 41) note that this is most likely a mistake as the normal practice in Anglo-Norman towns was to position such hospitals some distance outside the town walls so as to try and contain the disease. Compiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 8 October 2015	Redundant record	ATHENRY	Low
CH074	SMR	GA084-001016-	In flat pastureland c. 60m to the E of the Clarin River and within the medieval walled town of Athenry (GA084-001----). Named 'Spa Well (Chalybeate)' on the 1933 edition of the OS 6-inch map, this well is known locally	Well	ATHENRY	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XXXIV

			as the 'Pan Well' because its base consists of a subcircular stone basin (0.53m N-S; 0.51 E-W; D 0.13). It is enclosed by a circular drystone wall (diam. 0.68m H 0.4m), one to three courses high, and the outlet is to the SW. Another well (GA084-001017-) lies c. 168m to the SSW. Compiled by: Olive Alcock Date of upload: 13 November 2019			
CH075	RMP/NM/RMH	GA084-001001-/RMH ID- 54	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. To access available information for research	Town defences	ATHENRY	Very High
CH076	Excavation	06 E0177 ext.	Plans for a parish centre in the vicinity of the medieval town defences have been ongoing for a number of years. Testing was initially undertaken in 2006 when a small area was tested revealing a number of pit features (Excavations 2006, No. 742, 06E0177). In 2009 three trenches were excavated in the area of a proposed centre (Excavations 2009, No. 382, 06E0177 ext.). The testing uncovered the remains of six human burials and the moat of the town defences. Following submission of the archaeological report and correspondence from the National Monuments Division, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government it was decided to move the proposed development further away from the town defences. Plans for a new development were provisionally drawn up and this report deals with the testing associated with these plans. All of this work was undertaken in advance of a planning submission.	Town defences	ATHENRY	Medium/Low



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XXXV

CH077	Excavation	06 E0177 ext.	The proposed development concerns the construction of a parish centre adjacent to the existing Catholic church in Athenry, Co. Galway. The site of the original town wall and moat was thought to survive to the immediate south-east of the development. Following consultation with the National Monuments Division, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, it was decided to test the area in advance of submitting a planning application. Testing was undertaken over a period of three days in September 2009. In the course of testing three trenches were excavated through the site of the proposed development. The trenches were excavated through an existing carpark and adjacent green space using a mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket.	Town defences and burial	ATHENRY	Medium/Low
CH078	Excavation	07 E0482	A proposed commercial development at Church Street, Athenry, required pre-development testing as a condition of planning permission. The development site is within the medieval town of Athenry and involved the demolition of an existing structure and construction of a new building. A single trench was excavated as part of the testing. The stratigraphy consisted of fill overlying bedrock, with 20th-century bottle and ceramic fragments recovered from the mixed fill. The recording of bedrock level at such a height within the town is interesting, as previous archaeological work in the vicinity did not reveal such a level.	Town	ATHENRY	Medium/Low
CH079	Excavation	06 E0177	Following consultation with National Monuments, it was recommended that testing should be undertaken in the area of a proposed pastoral centre south of the existing Roman Catholic church at Church Street	Town defences	ATHENRY	Medium/Low



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XXXVI

			Athenry. The proposed development would be located in the vicinity of the medieval town wall. Two trenches were excavated in the area of the development. The testing revealed archaeological features in the form of small pits at a depth of 0.9m. It was recommended that archaeological excavations be undertaken if the development was to proceed at this site.			
CH080	Excavation	E2900; C182	A programme of pre-development test-pitting was carried out on a proposed development site at Cross Street, Athenry, Co. Galway, on 10 and 11 April 2007. Nineteen test-pits, each measuring c. 2m ² , were plotted on a 40m grid system and excavated using a tracked excavator fitted with a wide grading bucket. A total of fifteen features were uncovered. These comprised eight linear cuts, two subcircular features, three fire spots, a cobbled surface and a wall footing. The testing confirmed the findings of previous and more extensive programmes of testing at the site. There is much evidence of previous ground disturbance across the site, with a considerable depth of overburden present in some parts of the site and frequent cuts into the underlying subsoil. Much of the ground disturbance is considered to be associated with the development of Athenry House, but the site is known to retain considerable archaeological potential.	Town	ATHENRY	Medium/Low
CH081	Excavation	06 E0021	Two phases of pre-development testing were carried out on a proposed mixed-use development site at Cross Street, Athenry, Co. Galway, in January and November 2006. The site is located in the heart of the medieval town and consisted of an open courtyard area surrounded by	Town	ATHENRY	Medium/Low



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XXXVII

			dilapidated galvanised sheds with lofts above, and a dwelling house with a long garden plot to the rear.			
CH082	Excavation	02 E1758	Pre-development testing was undertaken at Cross Street, Athenry, which is within the medieval walls of the town. Two trenches were mechanically excavated, both oriented east–west, 13.5m long and 1m wide. Trench A was excavated to a depth of 0.8–0.9m, and Trench B to a maximum depth of 1m. The removal of the demolition debris revealed a stony rubble layer in both trenches. Occasional fragments of red brick and pottery were recovered from this layer, all of which were of late 20th-century date. Underlying this was a dark brown, silty clay layer with an average depth of 0.3m. There was no evidence of features/deposits of archaeological significance.	no archaeology found	ATHENRY	Medium/Low
CH083	Excavation	01 E0096	The development was situated on Cross Street, Athenry, and concerned the renovation of and an extension to a public house. The location of the development in a zone of archaeological potential necessitated pre-development testing. Three trenches were mechanically excavated. The stratigraphy revealed did not indicate any evidence of features/deposits of archaeological significance. The layers present were comprised of a concrete surface and gravel layer, a stony rubble layer, a blackish brown silty layer and the natural bedrock. Finds included occasional modern glass, red brick and fragments of 20th-century pottery. The proposed extension on the site will involve the removal of soil for a depth of 0.45–0.5m. This work would not appear to affect any archaeological layers.	no archaeology found	ATHENRY	Medium/Low



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XXXVIII

CH084	Excavation	99 E0070	The proposed development concerned the erection of two stores and the extension to the rear of the present building. The development is within the zone of archaeological potential of Athenry, and therefore pre-development testing was required.	Excavation - miscellaneous	ATHENRY	Medium/Low
CH085	Excavation	98 E0553	Pre-development testing in the form of trial trenches took place to establish the nature and extent of any archaeological features or deposits at Cross Street, Athenry, Co. Galway. Three trenches were mechanically excavated, with nothing of archaeological significance uncovered.	no archaeology found	ATHENRY	Medium/Low
CH086	Excavation	01 E0847	Pre-development testing was undertaken in compliance with a condition of planning permission. It was concerned with the demolition of an extension to the rear of a dwelling-house and the construction of a single-storey extension to the rear of same.	no archaeology found	ATHENRY	Medium/Low
CH087	Excavation	97 E0150	Archaeological test excavation was carried out in advance of a proposed residential development at Barrack Lane, Athenry, Co. Galway, in May 1997. The site, measuring approximately 35m ² , is situated at the east end of Barrack Lane and lies directly across the road from the ruins of the medieval Dominican friary. Though an Anglo-Norman foundation, the friary owed much to native Irish patronage, with the O'Connors, O'Heynes and O'Kellys all contributing to its early development. The monastery was extensively damaged by fire in 1423, necessitating large-scale rebuilding. In 1574 it was dissolved and granted to the town, and in 1627 the friary was granted to Galway merchants, who allowed the friars to return and restored all the buildings. The	no archaeology found	ATHENRY	Medium/Low



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XXXIX

			Cromwellians expelled the friars in 1652 and the friary was a ruin by the end of the century. The conventual buildings were demolished about 1750 to make way for a military barracks.			
CH088	Excavation	97 E0150	Archaeological test excavation was carried out in advance of a proposed residential development at Barrack Lane, Athenry, Co. Galway, in May 1997. The site, measuring approximately 35m ² , is situated at the east end of Barrack Lane and lies directly across the road from the ruins of the medieval Dominican friary. Though an Anglo-Norman foundation, the friary owed much to native Irish patronage, with the O'Connors, O'Heynes and O'Kellys all contributing to its early development. The monastery was extensively damaged by fire in 1423, necessitating large-scale rebuilding. In 1574 it was dissolved and granted to the town, and in 1627 the friary was granted to Galway merchants, who allowed the friars to return and restored all the buildings. The Cromwellians expelled the friars in 1652 and the friary was a ruin by the end of the century. The conventual buildings were demolished about 1750 to make way for a military barracks.	no archaeology found	ATHENRY	Medium/Low
CH089	Excavation	02 E1573	Pre-development testing took place before the construction of two dwelling-houses and associated services at Abbeyrow, Athenry, on a site occupied by a 19th-century national school. Monitoring of the demolition of the school building revealed no features of archaeological significance. Five trenches were mechanically excavated. The stratigraphy consisted of demolition rubble overlying a natural gravel layer that	no archaeology found	ATHENRY	Medium/Low



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XL

			extended for a depth of 0.8–1m, suggesting that the schoolhouse had been built directly on a natural gravel deposit. No artefacts or features of archaeological significance were encountered.			
CH090	Excavation	96 E0226	This narrow, elongated site within the city of Galway, excavated between January and April 1997, yielded evidence for domestic floors comprising a series of redeposited boulder clays associated exclusively with Saintonge ware. These clays contrasted sharply with a series of contemporaneous heavy dark silty clays forming the bulk of the deposits in the backyard. The two sets of deposits were demarcated by a modern limestone wall which cut into the clays and rested upon bedrock. It would appear, therefore, that the modern wall cut into the trench of a previous structure and obliterated whatever remains existed of an earlier medieval structure. In any case, the redeposited boulder clays yielded hearths, postholes, ash and charcoal lenses. The silty clays outside yielded contemporaneous pottery and numerous fragments of butchered animal bone. There was considerable disturbance in the upper deposits, accounting, no doubt, for the almost complete absence of post-medieval clays. A limited extent of dry walling was recovered in the extreme south-west corner, however, and this may have post-medieval origins.	Excavation - miscellaneous	ATHENRY	Medium/Low
CH091	Excavation	E0 0426	Monitoring and excavation were carried out from September 2011 to January 2012 in Athenry, Co. Galway. The archaeological works were carried out on behalf of Coffey's Construction Ltd, in advance of laying ungraded water pipes and ESB ducts. The works are an	Historic Town	ATHENRY	Medium/Low



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XLI

			extension of the Tuam Water Supply Scheme to Athenry. Pre-development excavation was undertaken along North Gate Street, Burke's Lane, Market Square, Cross Street, Bridge Street and Abbey Row.			
CH092	Excavation	00 E0364	The proposed development is located in the town of Athenry, adjacent to the town wall. An assessment of the proposed development, undertaken in March 2000, identified a number of possible archaeological features in the area that would be directly affected by the development. These consisted of Feature A, a north-west/south-east-running bank; Feature B, a D-shaped enclosure; and Feature C, a ditch running north-south.	Enclosure - large enclosure	ATHENRY	Medium/Low
CH093	Excavation	C360, E4040	Monitoring and excavation was carried out in advance of conservation works at Loro Gate, Athenry, Co. Galway between October 2013 and April 2014. The remains of Loro Gate, one of four gates in the medieval town walls, was initially uncovered during monitoring of road works in August 2007. The site lay idle until 2013 when Galway County Council in association with RPS designed a new roundabout to accommodate the preservation in situ and display of the medieval gate. Howley Hayes Architects were retained to plan and design for the conservation and display of the Loro Gate and Dominic Delany & Associates were appointed archaeological consultants to the project. Following consultations with all stakeholders a programme of archaeological works was agreed and the required ministerial consent obtained. The works included excavation of the pipe trench extending through the core of the medieval wall, removal of the old cast iron pipe, excavations around the perimeter of the	Historic Town	ATHENRY	Medium/Low



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XLII

			wall to expose buried stonework and prepare the ground for the installation of an effective gravel bed to improve drainage. It was further agreed that all groundworks associated with the development would be monitored.			
CH094	Excavation	11 E0301	The monitoring of a domestic water connection was undertaken over a period of two days in August 2011. The trench for the pipeline crossed the site of the medieval wall where a gateway gave access to the property. Removal of topsoil (0.2m deep) on either side of the basal plinth indicated that the entranceway was constructed directly on top of the original town wall. Stones from the wall extended 0.25m south of the gateway lintel and 0.3m north of the lintel, indicating that the wall was 0.85m in width. It appears that the original wall was levelled off and the existing pedestrian entranceway constructed on top of it. It proved possible to place the water pipe immediately below the existing plinth of the pedestrian entranceway and above the stones, thereby avoiding disturbance to the original wall feature. A 0.5m-wide trench on either side of the town wall was excavated to a depth of 0.4–0.75m. While this trench is in the area of the original moat, it was found to consist of fill material, with no artefacts or features of archaeological significance encountered.	Urban, Town Wall	ATHENRY	Medium/Low
CH095	Excavation	17 E0632	The development involved the construction of an upgrade to a water treatment plant in the townland of Newford, on the outskirts of Athenry. Conditions 6 of the grant of Planning permission (Planning Ref. 16/799) recommended monitoring of ground disturbance associated with the development. The monitoring was	no archaeology found	NEWFORD	Medium/Low



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XLIII

			undertaken over a period of 15 days between December 2017 and May 2018. Excavations for the replacement of the existing inlet works , a storm bank, aeration tank, clarification tanks, a sludge storage tank and all ancillary work were monitored. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered with the stratigraphy indicating made-up ground overlying natural silt.			
CH096	Excavation	17 E0632	Monitoring of ground disturbance associated with the upgrading of the existing Waste Water Treatment Plant on the outskirts of Athenry town in County Galway was undertaken over a period of 14 days between December 2017 and May 2018. The monitoring established that much of the site, particularly in the south and west, had previously been disturbed with made-up ground, mixed layers and stone fill throughout. In the north of the site a light brown sandy clay was encountered below the topsoil and would appear to represent the natural subsoil layer.	no archaeology found	NEWFORD	Medium/Low
CH097	Excavation	A024/2.40	The archaeological remains here comprised a small subcircular post-hole-shaped cut feature with a charcoal-rich fill, which would appear to have truncated a shallow linear cut feature. Situated at the base of the linear cut and immediately north of this cut was a small subcircular-shaped cut feature. The trench was extended on the western side and a rectangular area measuring 5m (east-west) by 6m was opened. No further features were discovered towards the west; however, it is possible that the site may extend towards the east under the field boundary wall and the regional road R347.	Excavation - miscellaneous	BAUNMORE	Medium/Low



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XLIV

CH098	Excavation	96 E0377	A small housing development commenced at the site of Swangate, Athenry, in November 1996 without a pre-development archaeological assessment, which had not been requested as part of the planning process. The matter was reported to the National Monuments Service and recommendations were made immediately to the effect that the on-site building work should be suspended pending archaeological testing.	Excavation - miscellaneous	ATHENRY	Medium/Low
CH099	Excavation	16 E0165	Following test trenching under this licence in 2016, an excavation was carried out in advance of a nursing home extension. The site is partially located on top of a known monument, ringfort GA084-027, which is also truncated by a road.	ringfort - rath	FARRANABLAK E EAST	Medium/Low
CH100	Excavation	16 E0165	Test trenching was carried out in advance of a nursing home extension. The site is partially located on top of ringfort GA084-027, which is also truncated by a road. A single test trench was excavated and this revealed that, despite severe truncation, the base of the ditch of the ringfort survives within the development site. Full excavation is recommended.	Enclosure - large enclosure	FARRANABLAK E EAST	Medium/Low
CH101	Excavation	15 E0181	Monitoring was undertaken on the Athenry Watermains Rehabilitation Project Phase 1, Co. Galway. It is proposed to upgrade the watermain in Athenry, Co. Galway (Galway County Council – exempt development). These works form part of the Galway Watermains Rehabilitation Project Phase 1, which covers Ballinasloe, Oranmore, Athenry and Headford, Co. Galway.	no archaeology found	BAUNMORE	Medium/Low
CH102	Excavation	13 E0260 ext.	Monitoring and excavation took place in advance of a proposed new junction of the R347 and R348 at Baunmore just south of Athenry, Co. Galway in late	Burial	BAUNMORE	Medium/Low



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XLV

			October 2014. A burial was uncovered during testing at this site in September 2013. The lower legs (tibiae and feet), the right side of the pelvis and lower right arm were truncated. The in situ skeletal remains were poorly preserved and most of the bones, including the skull, were crushed and fragmented. A small corroded iron object, probably a buckle, was found in the pelvic area of the skeleton and is almost certainly associated with the burial.			
CH103	Excavation	13 E0260	Test excavation took place on a green field site at Baunmore, Co. Galway on 5 September 2013. The work was commissioned by Galway County Council in mitigation of a proposed new junction of the R348 and R347, approximately 1.5km south-east of the medieval town of Athenry. A strip of land on the east side of the existing junction was acquired by the council for the purpose of developing the new junction. GA084-027 (Ringfort) and GA084-02701 (Graveyard) are located directly across the road, on the south side of the junction, and comprise the well-preserved remains of the east part of a large ringfort located within the grounds of a modern cemetery.	Burial	BAUNMORE	Medium/Low
CH104	Excavation	A024/3, E2553	Excavation was carried out in advance of construction on the N6 Galway to Ballinasloe road scheme; the site was located 1.5km from the town of Athenry. Testing by Tom Janes in 2005 (Excavations 2005, No. 597) identified a heavily eroded burnt spread. Excavation revealed the burnt-mound material was 11.4m by 8.5m in width and a maximum of 0.44m in depth. Beneath the burnt-mound material a layer of clayey silt contained a concentration	Burnt mound	FURZYPARK	Medium/Low



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XLVI

			of prehistoric pottery. There were no negative cut features associated with the burnt mound.			
CH105	TB	TB01	Townland boundary between Gortnahowna and Farranblake East	Townland Boundary	GORTNAHOWN	Medium/High
CH106	NIAH	30332022	Terraced two-storey house, built c.1850, having two-bay first and three-bay ground floor, latter with shopfront. Now in use as solicitor's office. Pitched slate roof with clay ridge tiles and rendered chimneystack. Smooth painted rendered walls to ground floor and painted lined-and-ruled render and vermiculated render quoins to first floor. Square-headed window openings to first floor having painted stone sills and moulder render surrounds and one-over-one pane timber sliding sash windows with ogee horns. Shopfront comprising vertically divided fixed timber display windows with cast-iron sill-guards, and recent square-headed timber door, whole flanked by fluted render pilasters with plinths and supporting entablature with fascia, moulded cornice and fluted consoles.	office	ATHENRY	High
CH107	NIAH	30332024	Corner-sited three-bay two-storey house, built c.1860, having single-storey extension to rear. Now in use as public house. Pitched slate roof with slate ridge tiles, rendered chimneystacks and cut limestone eaves course with moulded red brick corbels. Rooflight to rear slope. Lean-to slate roof to extension. Rock-faced snecked limestone walls to first floor with tooled squared quoins, moulded red brick string course, stone and brick façade only occupying half of gable. Snecked squared rubble to ground floor, with cement or stone scroll brackets to former shopfronts. Lined-and-ruled rendered walls to	public house	ATHENRY	High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XLVII

			remainder of gable, smooth rendered walls to rear elevation. Camber-arch window openings to first floor, some with cut-stone sills and having chamfered red brick block-and-start surrounds with replacement timber windows. Replacement uPVC windows to rear. Square-headed door opening to front elevation having red brick block-and-start surround and timber battened vertically divided door with limestone threshold.			
CH108	NIAH	30332025	Detached two-bay two-storey house, built c.1915, having gabled bays to front, west, elevation and to slightly advanced south elevation. Pitched slate roof with slate ridge tiles, rendered chimneystacks, cast-iron rainwater goods and carved timber bargeboards. Smooth rendered walls having raised render quoins and plinth. Square-headed window openings having decorative block-and-start render surrounds and stone sills with replacement uPVC windows. Square-headed door opening having decorative render doorcase comprising pilasters with raised detailing, moulded bases and decorative consoles supporting moulded cornice, and having recessed replacement timber door. Wrought-iron pedestrian gate flanked by cut-stone piers and approached by dressed limestone steps with rendered parapet walls. Rendered boundary plinth wall with decorative cast-metal railings.	house	ATHENRY	High
CH109	NIAH	30332026	End-of-terrace two-bay two-storey house, dated 1902, part of composition that includes five other buildings. Hipped slate roof with cement rendered chimneystack, clay ridge tiles and cast-iron rainwater goods. Rock-faced snecked limestone walls with cut-stone quoins, rusticated plinth and cut-stone eaves course. Square-	house	ATHENRY	High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XLVIII

			headed window openings with stone sills, lintels and block-and-start jambs having two-over-two pane timber sliding sash windows with ogee horns. Square-headed door opening with cut-stone lintel and block-and-start jambs, having timber panelled door with overlight. House fronts directly onto McDonald's Lane.			
CH110	NIAH	30332027	Corner sited end-of-terrace two-storey house, dated 1902, having chamfered corner, single-bay to first floor of front and two-bay ground floor to front elevation. Formerly blank façade to side elevation, having recent window to ground floor. Hipped slate roof with red brick chimneystack, clay ridge tiles, cast-iron rainwater goods and cut limestone eaves course. Curvilinear parapet to corner having moulded cornice and terracotta ball finial, with carved stone plaque beneath bearing raised lettering 'A.D. 1902'. Rock-faced snecked limestone walls having cut-stone quoins and rusticated plinth. Square-headed openings with cut-stone sills, lintels and block-and-start jambs, replacement uPVC windows with tooled stone sills, and replacement uPVC door with overlight. House fronts onto Cross Street and McDonald's Lane.	house	ATHENRY	High
CH111	NIAH	30332028	Terraced two-bay two-storey house, built 1902. Pitched slate roof with cement rendered chimneystack, clay ridge tiles and cast-iron rainwater goods and cut limestone eaves course. Rock-faced snecked limestone walls and rusticated plinth. Square-headed openings with cut-stone sills, lintels and block-and-start jambs, replacement uPVC windows having stone sills, and replacement uPVC door. House fronts directly onto Cross Street.	house	ATHENRY	High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XLIX

CH112	NIAH	30332029	Terraced two-bay two-storey house, built 1902. Pitched slate roof with cement rendered chimneystack, clay ridge tiles and cast-iron rainwater goods and cut limestone eaves course. Rock-faced snecked limestone walls and rusticated plinth. Square-headed openings with cut-stone sills, lintels and block-and-start jambs, replacement uPVC windows having stone sills, and replacement timber door. House fronting directly onto Cross Street.	house	ATHENRY	High
CH113	NIAH	30332031	Terraced two-bay two-storey house, built 1902. Pitched slate roof with cement rendered chimneystack, clay ridge tiles, cast-iron rainwater goods and cut limestone eaves course. Rock-faced snecked limestone walls and rusticated plinth. Square-headed openings with cut-stone sills, lintels and block-and-start jambs, replacement uPVC windows with stone sills, and replacement uPVC door. House fronts directly onto Cross Street.	house	ATHENRY	High
CH114	NIAH	30332032	End-of-terrace three-bay two-storey house, built 1902. Pitched slate roof with cement rendered chimneystacks, clay ridge tiles, cast-iron rainwater goods and cut limestone eaves course. Rock-faced snecked limestone walls with tooled quoins and rusticated plinth. Square-headed openings with cut-stone lintels and block-and-start jambs, and replacement uPVC windows with stone sills, and having replacement timber panelled door with overlight. House fronts onto Cross Street.	house	ATHENRY	High
CH115	NIAH	30332033	Detached three-bay two-storey house, built c.1930, having flat-roofed canted-bay windows to end bays of front (south) elevation, and recent two-storey extension to rear. Hipped reslated roof with cement rendered chimneystacks and slate ridge tiles. Moulded render	house	PROSPECT (ATHENRY BY)	High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page L

			cornices to bay windows. Lined-and-ruled rendered walls to ground floor and roughcast render to first floor, and with raised smooth render quoins, moulded string course, and plinth. Segmental-headed window openings having moulded render surrounds and stone sills to front elevation, square-headed window openings to other elevations, all with one-over-one pane timber sliding sash windows. Camber-arch door opening with decorative render surround comprising fluted pilasters with plinths and capitals and supporting elliptical open-bed pediment, with replacement timber door having stained-glass overlights and sidelights. Stone steps to entrance having wrought-iron railings. Wrought-iron pedestrian gate with rendered piers to rendered boundary wall.			
CH116	NIAH	30332034	Humpback single-arch rusticated limestone railway bridge, built 1868, carrying road over Ennis to Athenry railway line. Round arch with rock-faced voussoirs, walls, piers and coping to parapet walls and to flanking buttresses in both elevations. Ashlar soffit.	bridge	PROSPECT (ATHENRY BY)	High
CH117	NIAH/RPS	30332035/RPS-GA-144	Detached five-bay two-storey house, built c.1800, with full-height canted central entrance bay to front. Rear has lower two-storey return of c.1850, and recent single-storey extension. Pitched slate roof with slate ridge tiles, rendered chimneystacks with terracotta pots, and with hipped slate roof to entrance bay. Chimneystack to south-east gable projects. Roughcast rendered walls throughout. Square-headed window openings having one-over-one pane timber sliding sash windows and stone sills. Round-headed door opening having carved	house	PROSPECT (ATHENRY BY)	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LI

			limestone surround with triple keystone, timber panelled door and cobweb fanlight. House set within its own grounds. Partly rendered rubble stone boundary wall.			
CH118	NIAH	30332036	Detached three-bay two-storey L-plan house, built c.1930, having projecting gable-fronted east end bay, and with canted-bay windows to end bays, lean-to garage to east elevation, and single-bay single-storey extension to rear. Hipped slate roof with red brick chimneystacks and clay ridge tiles, and render eaves course. Smooth rendered walls to ground floor with smooth rendered plinth, and pebbledashed to first floor having smooth rendered quoins and decorative panel, lugs, and floating cornice to gable-front. Moulded render string course between floors and doubling as sill course to first floor. Segmental-headed window openings, paired and with moulded render surrounds to first floor end bays, with render sills to ground floor, and replacement uPVC windows throughout. Segmental-headed door opening with moulded render surround and half-glazed timber panelled door with overlight recessed in lobby. Square-headed window openings to rear having concrete sills. Square-profile red brick piers to roughcast rendered front boundary wall with render capitals and plinths, set in roughcast rendered walls, flanked by second pair of piers.	house	PROSPECT (ATHENRY BY)	High
CH119	NIAH	30332037	Detached three-bay two-storey house, built c.1930, with projecting gable-fronted east end bay and having canted bay windows to end bays, garage to east elevation, and recent conservatory extension to rear. Hipped slate roof	house	PROSPECT (ATHENRY BY)	High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LII

			with red brick chimneystacks and clay ridge tiles, and render eaves course. Smooth rendered walls with smooth rendered plinth to ground floor, and pebbledashed to first floor with smooth rendered quoins, decorative panel, lugs, and floating cornice to gable-front. Moulded render string course between floors and doubling as sill course to first floor windows. Segmental-headed window openings, paired and with moulded render surrounds to first floor, all having replacement uPVC windows. Segmental-headed opening with moulded render surround, and having recessed replacement uPVC door, with glazed timber panelled inner door. Square-headed window openings to rear having concrete sills. Decorative wrought-iron gates to front boundary flanked by square-profile red brick piers with render capitals and plinths, set into roughcast rendered walls, in turn flanked by second pair of piers.			
CH120	NIAH/RPS	30332038/RPS -GA-131	Detached five-bay two-storey country house, built c.1780, facing east and having shallow pedimented breakfront, and flanked by slightly recessed and slightly lower single-bay two-storey wings of c.1820. Rear elevation has three bays to main block, and projecting pedimented middle bay. Pitched slate roof with rendered end chimneystacks, and limestone eaves course and pediment with roundel. Hipped slate roofs to wings. Rendered walls. Square-headed windows, currently boarded up but one tripartite timber sliding sash window visible, with limestone sills. Round-headed window to first floor of rear pedimented bay, and fenestration to wings is irregular. Round-headed	house	ATHENRY	Very High



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LIII

			doorway with block-and-start surround and triple keystone, and flanked by sidelights, openings currently boarded up. Single-storey outbuilding to west having pitched roof lacking covering, rubble limestone walls and square-headed door and window openings and one elliptical carriage arch.			
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Note: The abbreviations that have been used for the 'Category' section are as follows:

- RMP: Recorded archaeological monument
NIAH: National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
PS: Protected Structure
TB: Townland Boundary



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LIV

APPENDIX 2 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

EIA Legislation

EIA Directive 85/337/EEC as amended by 97/11/EC and 2003/35/EC requires that certain developments be assessed for likely environmental effects before planning permission can be granted. The EIA Amendment Regulations, SI 93 OF 1999 specifies in Section 2(b) of the Second Schedule, 'Information to be contained in an Environmental Impact Statement', that among other factors, information is to be provided on:

'Material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, and the cultural heritage'

Each of these assets is addressed within this assessment report.

Cultural Heritage Legislation

Archaeological Monuments/Sites

Archaeological heritage is protected primarily under the edited. Section 2 of the 1930 National Monuments Act defines the word 'monument' as including:

'any artificial or partly artificial building, structure, or erection whether above or below the surface of the ground and whether affixed or not affixed to the ground and any cave, stone, or other natural product whether forming part of or attached to or not attached to the ground which has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the ground) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position and any prehistoric or ancient tomb, grave or burial deposit, but does not include any building which is for the time being habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes'.

Under the 1994 Act, provision was made for a Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). The RMP is a revised set of SMR (Sites and Monuments Record) maps, on which newly-discovered sites have been added and locations which proved not to be of antiquity have been de-listed by the National Monuments Service.

In effect, the National Monuments Act 1930–2014, as amended provide a statutory basis for:

- Protection of sites and monuments (RMPs)
- Sites with Preservation Orders
- Ownership and Guardianship of National Monuments
- Register of Historic Monuments (pre-dating AD 1700)
- Licensing of archaeological excavations
- Licensing of Detection Devices
- Protection of archaeological objects
- Protection of wrecks and underwater heritage (more than 100 years old)

In relation to proposed works at or in the vicinity of a recorded archaeological monument, Section 12 (3) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 states:

'When the owner or occupier (not being the Commissioners) of a monument or place which has been recorded [in the Record of Monuments and Places] or any person proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of any work at or in relation to such monument or place, he shall give notice in writing of his proposal to carry out the work to the Commissioners and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Commissioners, commence the work for a period of two months after having given the notice.'



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LV

Archaeological artefacts

Section 2 of the 1930 National Monuments Act (amended) defines an archaeological object as (in summary) any chattel in a manufactured or partly manufactured state or an unmanufactured state but with an archaeological or historical association. This includes ancient human, animal or plant remains.

Section 9 (1) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 states that any such artefact recovered during archaeological investigations should be taken into possession by the licensed archaeological director and held on behalf of the state until such a time as they are deposited accordingly subsequent to consultation with the National Museum of Ireland.

Architectural Sites

In 1997 Ireland ratified the Granada Convention on architectural heritage. This provided the basis for a national commitment to the protection of the architectural heritage throughout the country. The Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 and Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000 made the legislative changes necessary to provide for a strengthening of the protection of architectural heritage. The former Act has helped to provide for a forum for the strengthening of architectural heritage protection as it called for the creation of a National Inventory of Architectural Heritage which is used by local authorities for compiling the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). The Record of Protected Structures (RPS) is set out in each respective county's Development Plan and provides statutory protection for these monuments.

Section 1 (1) of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999 states:

'architectural heritage means all –

- (a) structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings,*
- (b) groups of such structures and buildings, and*
- (c) sites, which are of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest"*

The 1999 Act was replaced by the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000 where the conditions relating to the protection of architectural heritage are set out in Part IV of the Act. Section 57 (1) of the 2000 Act states that:

'...the carrying out of works to a protected structure, or a proposed protected structure, shall be exempted development only if those works would not materially affect the character of –

- (a) the structure, or*
- (b) any element of the structure which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest'*

	No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
	Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LVI

APPENDIX 3 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS USED

The following sets out the definitions of the terms which are used throughout the report:

- (i) The phrase ‘cultural heritage’ is a generic term used in reference to a multitude of cultural, archaeological and architectural sites and monuments. The term ‘cultural heritage’, in 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 be of historical, archaeological, artistic, engineering, scientific, social or technical interest.
- (ii) For the purpose of this assessment, each identified cultural heritage site is assigned a unique cultural heritage number with the prefix ‘CH’.
- (iii) 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, as amended. When reference is made to the distance between an RMP and the proposed development site (see below), 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.
- (iv) 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.
- (v) The term ‘proposed development site’ refers to the defined area of land within which the proposed development, including access tracks etc, may be constructed.
- (vi) In relation to the term ‘study area’ please see Section 1.3 above.
- (vii) The term ‘receiving environment’ refers to the broader landscape within which the study area is situated. Examination of the site’s receiving environment allows the study area to be analysed in its wider cultural context.
- (viii) The terms ‘baseline environment’ and ‘cultural heritage resource’ refer to the existing, identifiable environment against which potential effects of the proposed scheme may be measured.

Note: Information regarding archaeological site types and periods is provided in a glossary in Appendix 4.

APPENDIX 4 GLOSSARY AND DEFINITION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS

Bridge: A structure of wood, stone, iron, brick or concrete, etc., built to span a river or ravine in order to facilitate the crossing of pedestrians or vehicles. These date from the medieval period (5th–12th centuries AD) onwards.



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LVII

Burial ground: An area of ground, set apart for the burial of the dead, not associated with a church. These date from the medieval period (5th–16th centuries AD) onwards. See also: Children's burial ground and Graveyard.

Castle - Anglo-Norman masonry castle: A masonry castle constructed in Ireland by the Anglo-Normans between the late 12th and the early 14th century AD.

Church: A building used for public Christian worship. These can be of any date from *c.* AD 500 onwards.

Cist: A rectangular or polygonal structure used for burial purposes, constructed from stone slabs set on edge and covered by one or more horizontal slabs or capstones. Cists may be built on the surface or sunk into the ground or set within a cemetery cairn or cemetery mound. They date to the Bronze/Iron Ages (*c.* 2400 BC–AD 400).

Cross: A free-standing structure, in the form of a cross (+), symbolising the structure on which Jesus Christ was crucified. See also: High cross, Market cross, Tau cross. These can be of any date from *c.* 400 AD onwards.

Dovecote: A circular or square house where doves/pigeons were kept. They have internal niches for roosting and breeding, a door at ground level for human access and an opening in the roof or gable for pigeon access. They date from the medieval period (5th–16th centuries AD) and continued in use until *c.* 1900.

Enclosure: An area defined by an enclosing element (e.g. bank, wall, fosse, scarp), or indicated as such cartographically, and occurring in a variety of shapes and sizes, possessing no diagnostic features which would allow classification within another monument category. These may date to any period from prehistory onwards.

Enclosure - large enclosure: An enclosed area over 70 m in diameter defined by an earthen bank or stone wall, sometimes with an external fosse. They display no preferred siting criteria, and those on hilltops can be classified as hilltop enclosures. They can date to any period from prehistory to the late medieval period (i.e. 4000 BC–AD 1700). For other large enclosures see also: Hillfort, Hilltop enclosure, Causewayed enclosure, Ceremonial enclosure, and Embanked enclosure.

Fulacht fia: A horseshoe-shaped or kidney-shaped mound consisting of fire-cracked stone and charcoal-enriched soil built up around a sunken trough located near or adjacent to a water supply, such as a stream or spring, or in wet marshy areas. The first recorded use of the Irish term '*fulacht fiadh/fia*' (cooking pit of the deer or of the wild) as relating to ancient cooking sites was in the 17th century. These are generally interpreted to have been associated with cooking and date primarily to the Bronze Age (*c.* 2400–500 BC). See also: Burnt Mound.

Graveslab: A stone designed to be recumbent and marking a grave, AD 1200–1700 in date.

Graveyard: The burial area around a church. These date from the medieval period (5th–16th centuries) onwards

Historic town: A settlement of pre-AD 1700 date that occupied a central position in the communications network, functioned as a market centre and had an organised layout of streets with a significant density



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LVIII

of houses and associated land plots. In addition, examples of one of the following monument classes should be present: town defences; castle/tower house; house (which functioned as a manor house); parish church/cathedral; religious house(s); administrative institution (e.g. town hall, market house); judicial institution (e.g. courthouse, prison); monuments indicating specialised technological production (e.g. mill, kiln, tannery, ironworking site); bridge; hospital; school; quays. Where only documentary evidence survives to suggest a town was present then the term 'Historic town possible' applies.

Memorial stone (present location): A stone on which is carved an inscription, a person's initials or other letters commemorating a person or event. If accompanied by a coat of arms it is classified as an 'armorial plaque'. This term is not used for memorials of the dead found in churches, for which see 'Wall monument'. In this case the memorial stone has been moved from its original location. These date from the later medieval period (12th–16th centuries AD) onwards

Mill – corn: A mill, including where present the millrace and millpond, for grinding corn. These date from the 18th to the 20th century AD. In this database only mills which are post-1700 AD in date are classified by function.

Quarry: A place where stone, sand, gravel or clay was extracted.

Redundant record: Records classed as 'Redundant record' are those that fulfil one or more of the following criteria: (1) a record identifying a location where, according to documentary sources (e.g., published reference, cartographic sources) or personal communication, a monument might have existed, but which, on inspection, was found not to be an archaeological monument (e.g. a natural feature); (2) a record classified using a term which is now obsolete (e.g. ecclesiastical remains); (3) a record created in error, a duplicate record or one which has no supporting evidence recorded on file or in the database; (4) an archaeological object (i.e. an artefact), e.g. a quern-stone; (5) a record entered as a 'Shipwreck'. Shipwrecks are recorded in a separate database.

Religious house - Dominican Friars: A religious house as listed in A. Gwynn and R.N. Hadcock in 'Medieval Religious Houses Ireland' (1970) (Reprinted 1988). Irish Academic Press, Dublin. These date to the later medieval period (12th–16th centuries AD)

Ringfort – cashel: Usually a roughly circular or oval area, though some examples are rectangular, which is surrounded by a stone wall or walls. They functioned as residences and/or farmsteads and broadly date from AD 500 to 1000. See: Ringfort - rath for earthen equivalent.

Ringfort – rath: A roughly circular or oval area surrounded by an earthen bank with an external fosse. Some examples have two (bivallate) or three (trivallate) banks and fosses, but these are less common and have been equated with higher status sites belonging to upper grades of society. They functioned as residences and/or farmsteads and broadly date from AD 500 to 1000.

Road - road/trackway: A way, or section thereof, which has been deliberately constructed between places. These may be of any date from prehistory onwards.

Souterrain: An underground structure consisting of one or more chambers connected by narrow passages or creepways, usually constructed of drystone-walling with a lintelled roof over the passages and a corbelled roof over the chambers. Most souterrains appear to have been built in the early medieval period by ringfort inhabitants (c. AD 500–1000 AD) as a defensive feature and/or for storage.



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LIX

Town defences: Defensive fortifications such as ramparts, ditches and stone walls, built to defend a historic town of pre-1700 AD date.

Wall monument: A memorial for the dead found in a church context. These range from elaborate architectural monuments with canopied niches or classical detailing to simple tablets inserted into, hanging from or standing against a wall, which bear an inscription and/or a coat of arms commemorating a person or persons. They date from the 13th century AD onwards. For wall monuments that include an effigy see: Wall monument – effigial.

Well: A constructed feature either consolidating of the edges of a natural spring with stones or the excavation of a vertical bore-hole to reach ground-water at depth, the sides being consolidated with stones or other material. A spring well can have a canopy and steps leading to the water, but a bore-hole can have a mechanical means of raising and lowering buckets.



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LX

APPENDIX 5 COUNTY GALWAY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2022–2028)

12.5 Architectural Heritage Context

AH 1 *Architectural Heritage*

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

AH 2 *Protected Structures (Refer to Appendix 6)*

(a) Ensure the protection and sympathetic enhancement of structures including their curtilage and attendant grounds included and proposed for inclusion in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest, together with the integrity of their character and setting.

(b) Review the Record of Protected Structures in order to provide a comprehensive schedule for the protection of structures of special importance in the County during the lifetime of the plan.

(c) Ensure that development proposals are appropriate in terms of architectural treatment, character, scale and form to the existing protected structure and not detrimental to the special character and integrity of the protected structure and its setting.

(d) Ensure high-quality architectural design of all new developments relating to or which may impact on structures (and their settings) included in the Record of Protected Structures.

(e) Promote and ensure best conservation practice through the use of specialist conservation professionals and craft persons.

(f) Prohibit development proposals, either in whole or in part, for the demolition of protected structures, save in exceptional circumstances.

AH 3 *Protection of Structure on the NIAH*

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

AH 4 *Architectural Conservation Areas (Refer to Appendix 7)*

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

This will be achieved by:



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXI

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

AH 5 ***Maintenance and Re-use of existing Building Stock***

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

AH 6 ***Vernacular Architecture***

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

AH 7 ***Local Place Names***

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



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXII

AH 8 *Energy Efficiency and Traditionally Built Structures*

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

AH 9 *Local Landscape and Place Assessment*

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

AH 10 *Designed Landscapes*

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

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

AH 11 *Custodianship*

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

AH 12 *Placemaking for Towns and villages*

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

AH 13 *Traditional Building Skills*

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

AH 14 *Design and Landscaping in New Buildings*

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

12.6 Archaeological Heritage

ARC 1 *Legislative Context*

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

ARC 2 *Archaeological Sites*

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



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXIII

ARC 3 *Archaeological Landscapes*

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

ARC 4 *Protection of Archaeological Sites*

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

ARC 5 *Development Management*

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

ARC 6 *Burial Grounds*

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

ARC 7 *Battlefield Sites*

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

ARC 8 *Underwater Archaeological Sites*

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

ARC 9 *Recorded Monuments*

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

ARC 10 *Zones of Archaeological Potential*

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

ARC 11 *Industrial and Post Medieval Archaeology*

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



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXIV

ARC 12 *Archaeology and Infrastructure Schemes*

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

12.7 Cultural Heritage

CUH 1 *Cultural heritage*

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

CUH 2 *Special Places of Historic Interest*

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

CUH 3 *Placenames/Naming of New Developments*

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

CUH 4 *The Gaeltacht and Linguistic Heritage*

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

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

CUH 5 *Library and Archives*

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

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

APPENDIX 6 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

An examination of previous excavations carried out within and around the area The for development provides a useful framework for assessment of the study area in terms of its archaeological significance



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXV

as well as its archaeological potential. The Archaeological Excavations Bulletin is an annual fieldwork gazetteer for Irish Archaeology; it was checked for a record of any licensed archaeological investigations carried out in the vicinity of the development area from 1970 onwards.

Site name: Athenry

Sites and Monuments Record No.: GA084-001

Licence number: E3995; C309

Author: David J. O'Connor, CRDS Ltd.

Site type: Town defences

Period/Dating: Medieval (AD 400-1600)

ITM: E 549998 m, N 728490 m

Limited excavation of areas around the base of the South-East Tower, part of the Athenry medieval town defences, was undertaken at the request of Galway County Council. The excavation entailed three cuttings around the base of the tower (Cuttings 1-3). Excavation was limited to the overburden and sod layer down to undisturbed archaeological levels. The aim of the excavation was to recover stone that might have collapsed from the tower and town wall and to allow a stable ground level for scaffolding, which was to be erected to allow conservation works to commence on the tower itself.

Cutting 1 was situated to the south-east of the tower, outside the town walls. It measured 7.8 m by 5 m by 4.25 m and revealed that a significant deposit of modern rubbish, probably dating from the 1990s, had been dumped at the base of the tower, and large stones, probably brought in from elsewhere, were used to cover this waste material. Underneath the sod a number of gravel and sandy layers were uncovered, which were not excavated. These layers possibly represent the build-up of waterborne materials in the area where there was a moat. Cartographic evidence shows the moat flooded up to at least the mid-19th century.

Cutting 2 was situated inside the town wall, at the base of the tower. The cutting measured 4.7 m by 4.18 m and revealed a demolition layer under the sod. This layer was excavated down to a second demolition layer, which was left *in situ*. The layer appears to date to the 19th century and is highly enriched with mortar fragments and small to medium stones. It is believed that deliberate robbing of cut stones took place, with the stones being cleaned of mortar on-site. An earlier demolition layer was not excavated and remains *in situ*.

Cutting 3 was situated to the north of the tower, outside the town wall. The cutting measured 1.53 m by 1.13 m. As with Cutting 1, modern dumped material was sitting directly on the sod layer. Underneath, similar gravel layers were uncovered, which were left *in situ*.

Metal detection of all spoil was undertaken throughout the excavation.

Site name: Athenry

Sites and Monuments Record No.: GA084-001

Licence number: CO00156, E2467



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXVI

Author: Martin Fitzpatrick, Arch Consultancy Ltd.

Site type: Watercourse and Town defences

Period/Dating: Multi-period

ITM: E 549998 m, N 728490 m

Monitoring of broadband installation was undertaken over a period of three months from August 2006. The work involved the excavation of a trench 0.55–0.6 m wide and 0.8 m deep to facilitate the installation of broadband cables in the area of Athenry town. The trenches were excavated in the vicinity of the town wall, the Dominican Abbey and the sites of the medieval gates of Swan/Loro Gate, Nicholas Gate, Brittin Gate and North Gate. Excavations through Old Church Street, McDonald's Lane, Cross Street, Davis Street, Bridge Street and North Gate Street were also undertaken. Traces of 19th-century culverts were uncovered on North Gate Street and Cross Street. Manual excavations in the area of the town gates and walls revealed traces of the town wall 0.3 m below the roadway in the vicinity of Loro Gate/Prospect. The wall was constructed of uncut limestone with traces of mortar throughout. The feature survived for two courses in height and measured 2.6 m in width. No evidence for a moat was uncovered. The wall was covered over with a protective membrane and the broadband cables laid over the wall. Excavations throughout the remainder of the town revealed no features of archaeological significance. The stratigraphy indicated that the areas had previously been disturbed, with pipes, cables and services encountered throughout.

Site name: Athenry

Sites and Monuments Record No.: GA084–014 and GA084–101

Licence number: 06E0370

Author: Eoin Sullivan, for Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd, 27, Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Site type: Excavation - miscellaneous

Period/Dating: Multi-period

ITM: E 549998 m, N 728490 m

Testing took place in May 2006 on the lands of the Teagasc research farm, Athenry, on behalf of the Industrial Development Authority. Four known sites were located on the lands of the farm. Two of these, GA084–015 and GA084–016, were recorded as levelled subrectangular enclosures. A geophysical survey of the lands in advance of testing did not reveal any features that would suggest the presence of an enclosure. Subsequent testing of the sites by Colm Moriarity (see No. 747, *Excavations 2006*, 06E0107) did not find anything of archaeological significance.

The two remaining known sites were recorded as the site of a short cist in Newford (GA084–101) and an unclassified earthwork in Ballygarraun South (GA084–014), known locally as 'Mount Shaw'. According to the National Museum of Ireland, the cist burials were found by workmen whilst digging a sand pit at the summit of a low hill in 1913. One cist contained a food vessel and skeletal remains; a perforated boar's tusk likely to be a grave good was also found in one of the graves. A geophysical survey was undertaken in advance of the test excavation around these sites, which revealed one anomaly in the vicinity of the site of the cist. No features of archaeological significance were identified in the geophysical survey around the circumference of the earthwork.



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXVII

The land in the vicinity of the site of the cist was mechanically tested, as was the land around the circumference of the earthwork. The earthwork was assessed on the basis of four hand-excavated trenches. The land in the vicinity of the site of the cist was assessed on the basis of three long test-trenches with several test-trenches offset at right angles. A total of 19 test-trenches were excavated. The test-trenches revealed ten features of archaeological significance. Three of these features were shallow pits, none of which contained artefacts. The seven remaining features were regular/irregular-shaped spreads of clay, one of which produced five pieces of chert and a possible piece of burnt bone. The geophysical anomaly was not of any archaeological significance. The majority of the archaeological features were located on the gently sloping portion of the field, to the north-west of the RMP site.

Five test-trenches were mechanically excavated around the circumference of the earthwork. No features of archaeological significance were encountered during the excavation of the test-trenches. A low rectangular-shaped stone structure is located on the northern summit of the earthwork. Four test-trenches were excavated on the summit of the mound. Two test-trenches, perpendicular to each other, were excavated across the stone structure. The third test-trench was located to the west of the stone structure and the fourth was located on the gently sloping southern side of the mound. The test-trenches within the stone structure revealed a small area of collapse on both the northern and southern sides of the northern wall of the structure. A circular setting of stones probably represents the remains of a gate-like feature to restrict access to the structure. The trench contained a shallow cover of topsoil, which produced an earthen bottle plug and several pieces of animal bone. The topsoil deepened dramatically at the southern side of the stone wall. At the southern end of the trench the topsoil overlay a yellow silty clay. The perpendicular trench produced a sherd of medieval pottery as well as animal vertebrae, ribs and a shoulder. There was no evidence for a cut associated with the animal burial. The trench at the southern side of the mound consisted of a shallow cover of topsoil overlying mound material. The trench produced a small copper mount.

The test-trenching revealed several archaeological features in the vicinity of the site of the cist and the presence of archaeological material on the earthwork.

Site name: Athenry

Sites and Monuments Record No.: GA084-001

Licence number: 05E1247

Author: Dominic Delany, Dominic Delany & Associates

Site type: No archaeology found

Period/Dating: N/A

ITM: E 549998 m, N 728490 m

Pre-development testing was carried out at the request of Galway County Council on the site of a proposed new carpark on the Galway Road in Athenry between 17 and 25 November 2005. The proposed development site is a greenfield area located in the south-west part of the Zone of Archaeological Potential established around the historic town of Athenry. The lands were formerly used as agricultural showgrounds and more recently as a football training field. The 1931 OS map names a 'Leper Compound (disused)' in the general vicinity of the development site.



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXVIII

Testing was confined to the proposed service runs, as it is proposed to raise most of the development site, thereby achieving preservation *in situ* of whatever archaeological remains may occur beneath the existing surface. Ten test-pits measuring 1.5 m² were manually excavated along the lines of the proposed service runs. The excavation revealed modern disturbance across the entire site area. This disturbance is probably a result of groundworks carried out when the site was converted for use as a training pitch. It was revealed that the site originally sloped away from the road to the south-east. This was evident from the fact that the original ground was truncated in the north-west part of the site, while the ground levels were built up in the south-east. The pits excavated in the north-west part of the site were shallow, averaging just 0.25 m in depth, and there was clear evidence that the ground had been truncated during previous works at the site. However, the pits excavated in the south-east part of the site presented a completely different picture, with up to 1 m of fill overlying the original topsoil. A substantial number of artefacts were recovered from the topsoil and redeposited material in the excavated pits. Most of the finds were modern, but seven post-medieval and five late medieval pottery sherds were included in the assemblage. No archaeological features or deposits were uncovered during testing.

Site name: Athenry

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A

Licence number: 01E0462

Author: Markus Casey, for Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd.

Site type: No archaeology found

Period/Dating: N/A

ITM: E 549998 m, N 728490 m

Test excavations on the site of a reservoir in a field of pasture and outcropping rock close to the remains of a tower-house uncovered a thin layer of topsoil directly on top of the underlying limestone bedrock. Nothing of archaeological value was found.

Site name: Athenry

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A

Licence number: 01E0461

Author: Markus Casey, for Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd.

Site type: No archaeology found

Period/Dating: N/A

ITM: E 549998 m, N 728490 m

Monitoring of the construction of a temporary access road in Ballydavid townland from the hilltop reservoir to the adjacent road showed that a thin covering of topsoil lay directly on the bedrock. No features of archaeological interest were uncovered.



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXIX

Site name: Athenry

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A

Licence number: 01E0460

Author: Markus Casey, for Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd.

Site type: TOWN

Period/Dating: Modern (AD 1750–2000)

ITM: E 549998 m, N 728490 m

Monitoring of previously opened slit-trenches and replacement of water pipes within the town revealed no area that had not been previously disturbed by earlier roadwork or pipe-laying schemes.

Site name: Athenry

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A

Licence number: 01E0380

Author: Markus Casey, for Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd.

Site type: No archaeology found

Period/Dating: N/A

ITM: E 549998 m, N 728490 m

Monitoring of pipe-trenching between Carnmore and Ballydavid reservoirs and Athenry revealed no areas or items of archaeological interest.

Site name: Athenry

Sites and Monuments Record No.: RMP 84:1

Licence number: 01E0027

Author: Richard Crumlish, Archaeological Services Unit Ltd.

Site type: No archaeology found

Period/Dating: N/A

ITM: E 549998 m, N 728490 m

A rescue excavation was carried out between 17 and 19 January 2001, following unapproved excavations adjacent to St Mary's Church and graveyard, Athenry, Co. Galway, in response to recommendations made by Dúchas. The excavation was required because of the proximity of the site to the medieval church and graveyard and its location within the medieval town of Athenry.



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXX

The site consisted of a small plot/garden, enclosed by high, mortared rubble walls, to the north-east of St Mary's Church and graveyard, the graveyard being located across the south-west boundary wall of the site.

Three trenches were cleaned off across the excavated area to ascertain what, if any, archaeological material had been removed. The trenches were 10.5–19 m long and 1m wide. Two sondages were excavated in the unexcavated part of the site. They measured 1 m by 1 m by 0.76–0.9 m deep.

The stratigraphy in the trenches consisted of a dark brown/black friable silt loam (garden soil) above orange/brown sandy clay loam and grey loamy sand (natural subsoils). The stratigraphy in the sondages consisted of dark brown friable silt loam (garden soil) and a layer of pebbles (remains of a path) on the surface, above grey friable loamy sand (natural subsoil) and modern rubble. A possible cut was located below the dark brown friable silt loam in one of the sondages. The limits of the sondage were too restrictive to positively identify it as a cut/pit or as a natural slope/feature.

Modern artefacts were recovered from the excavation which pointed to the site's use as a garden in relatively modern times.

Site name: Athenry: Chapel Lane

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A

Licence number: 99E0034

Author: Fiona Rooney, Arch. Consultancy Ltd.

Site type: No archaeology found

Period/Dating: N/A

ITM: E 549998 m, N 728490 m

As this development lay in the zone of archaeological potential, pre-development testing in the form of trial-trenches was recommended. The mechanical excavation of six trenches revealed no evidence of features/deposits of archaeological significance. The trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 1 m. In the northern end of the site the stratigraphy consisted of a layer of orange boulder clay, 2 m deep, overlying a grey, sandy gravel layer. In the southern end the garden soil was found to overlie the grey, sandy gravel layer. The layers present consisted of made-up ground or natural.

Site name: Athenry: D.H. Burkes, Northgate Street

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 84:1

Licence number: 98E0599

Author: Billy Quinn, for Archaeological Services Unit Ltd.

Site type: Excavation - miscellaneous

Period/Dating: Undetermined

ITM: E 549998 m, N 728490 m



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXXI

This work was undertaken on 15 December 1998. The proposed development involves the construction of a number of commercial and residential blocks, with carparking facilities. The proposed site, currently being used as a carpark, lies within the medieval town of Athenry, to the west of North Gate Street opposite St Mary's Collegiate church, and is bordered on its north and north-west by the medieval town wall. The North Tower, in ruins, stands in the north-west corner of the site. Testing involved the mechanical excavation of three trenches.

Trench 1, 30 m x 1 m and 0.7 m deep, was orientated west north-west–east south-east and was positioned to run through the centre of the site. In general, hard-core lay above the grey, sandy subsoil. At 3 m from the eastern limit of the trench a dark brown, compact, silty material with frequent small stones was found. It contained fragments of red brick and glass sherds and lay above the subsoil.

Trench 2, 10 m x 1 m, had a similar stratigraphy to Trench 1.

Trench 3, 30 m x 1 m, contained the brown, compact layer seen in Trench 1, as well as, in the west of the trench, a friable, orange/brown clay layer, 4.5 m long and 0.8 m deep. It overlay natural.

Judging from the extant medieval features it is possible that the present ground surface has been considerably reduced in recent years. It appears on the evidence of the test-trenches that the proposed development poses no threat to the immediate archaeological environment.

Site name: Athenry House, Athenry

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 94:1

Licence number: 98E0432

Author: Dominic Delany

Site type: Excavation - miscellaneous

Period/Dating: Late Medieval (AD 1100–1599)

ITM: E 549998 m, N 728490 m

Test-excavation was undertaken in advance of planning, from 28 September to 8 October 1998. The site lies immediately south of the modern town and comprises *c.* 8.5 acres of unenclosed pastureland. The ruins of the imposing early 19th-century Athenry House and its associated coach-house and outbuildings lie towards the north-west end of the site. The site is within the bounds of the Anglo-Norman town, which was founded by Meiler de Bermingham in around 1235. A 75 m stretch of the medieval town wall forms the south boundary of the site, and the site of the Spittle Gate, a postern into the medieval town, lies in the southern corner of the site. It has been suggested that the gate probably gets its name from a hospital that must have stood in this area, away from the inhabited part of the town. There is no evidence to suggest that this part of the town was settled in the medieval period.

Ten test-trenches were excavated at locations corresponding to the footprint of the proposed development. The trenches were 1m wide and varied from 40 m to 100 m long. The main features of archaeological significance were linear cuts in Trenches 1 and 3 and a curvilinear cut in Trench 3. The linear cuts appear to be associated and probably form part of a continuous feature. This feature is orientated north-east–south-west and averages 0.75 m wide. The upper fill consists of a grey, silty clay containing pebbles, cobbles, boulders and flecks of charcoal. In Trench 1 this deposit overlies an organic, mid-brown, silty clay with inclusions of cobbles, oyster shell, animal and bird bone, flecks of charcoal,



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXXII

burnt wood fragments and occasional boulders. A similar deposit of dark brown/black, organic material was encountered nearby and appears to be associated with the linear cut. This deposit yielded a fine rim/spout sherd of Saintonge pottery, suggesting a medieval date for this feature.

The curvilinear cut in Trench 3 is 0.9 m wide, and the upper fill comprises a dark grey, sandy clay with frequent inclusions of pebbles, cobbles, shell, bone and flecks of charcoal. No finds were recovered from the fill, but it appears to represent a feature of archaeological interest, possibly an enclosure ditch. In addition to these features several areas of archaeological potential were identified during testing, and some of the trenches yielded unstratified sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery wares.

Site name: Athenry

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 84:1

Licence number: 97E0180

Author: Gerry Walsh

Site type: No archaeology found

Period/Dating: N/A

ITM: E 549998 m, N 728490 m

Archaeological pre-development testing was carried out in advance of a proposed housing scheme in Athenry, Co. Galway, in May 1997. Four test-trenches were excavated.

No archaeological features or finds were recovered from any of the trenches.

Site name: Abbeyrow, Athenry

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 84:1

Licence number: 02E1573

Author: Fiona Rooney, Arch. Consultancy Ltd.

Site type: No archaeology found

Period/Dating: N/A

ITM: E 550346 m, N 727778 m

Pre-development testing took place before the construction of two dwelling-houses and associated services at Abbeyrow, Athenry, on a site occupied by a 19th-century national school. Monitoring of the demolition of the school building revealed no features of archaeological significance. Five trenches were mechanically excavated. The stratigraphy consisted of demolition rubble overlying a natural gravel layer that extended for a depth of 0.8–1 m, suggesting that the schoolhouse had been built directly on a natural gravel deposit. No artefacts or features of archaeological significance were encountered.



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXXIII

Site name: Galway: 3 Cross Street

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A

Licence number: 96E0226

Author: Neil O'Flanagan

Site type: Excavation - miscellaneous

Period/Dating: Undetermined

ITM: E 530006 m, N 725600 m

This narrow, elongated site within the city of Galway, excavated between January and April 1997, yielded evidence for domestic floors comprising a series of redeposited boulder clays associated exclusively with Saintonge ware. These clays contrasted sharply with a series of contemporaneous heavy dark silty clays forming the bulk of the deposits in the backyard. The two sets of deposits were demarcated by a modern limestone wall which cut into the clays and rested upon bedrock. It would appear, therefore, that the modern wall cut into the trench of a previous structure and obliterated whatever remains existed of an earlier medieval structure. In any case, the redeposited boulder clays yielded hearths, postholes, ash and charcoal lenses. The silty clays outside yielded contemporaneous pottery and numerous fragments of butchered animal bone. There was considerable disturbance in the upper deposits, accounting, no doubt, for the almost complete absence of post-medieval clays. A limited extent of dry walling was recovered in the extreme south-west corner, however, and this may have post-medieval origins.

Site name: Athenry

Sites and Monuments Record No.: GA084-001

Licence number: E004226

Author: Finn Delaney, Eachtra Archaeological Projects—Galway

Site type: Historic town

Period/Dating: Multi-period

ITM: E 550182 m, N 727739 m

Monitoring and excavation were carried out from September 2011 to January 2012 in Athenry, Co. Galway. The archaeological works were carried out on behalf of Coffey's Construction Ltd, in advance of laying ungraded water pipes and ESB ducts. The works are an extension of the Tuam Water Supply Scheme to Athenry. Pre-development excavation was undertaken along North Gate Street, Burke's Lane, Market Square, Cross Street, Bridge Street and Abbey Row.

The excavations revealed archaeological activity in three areas, namely Cross Street, Bridge Street and Abbey Row. The activity in Cross Street was uncovered towards the northern end of the trench and was in the form of two or three large pits. In Bridge Street a pit containing pottery provisionally dated to the late medieval period and evidence for iron-working was uncovered. A probable building of more recent date with an associated yard was also uncovered. On Abbey Row a deposit possibly dating from the late medieval period was uncovered. A platform, probably for access to the Clarin River, was



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXXIV

constructed between the western end of the Dominican Abbey and the river. Evidence for iron-working was also uncovered.

Site name: Athenry: St Mary's Church

Sites and Monuments Record No.: GA084-001

Licence number: C604

Author: Dominic Delany, Dominic Delany & Associates

Site type: Church

Period/Dating: Medieval (AD 400–1600)

ITM: E 550263 m, N 727961 m

Conservation works on the medieval parish church of St Mary's in Athenry were monitored between December 2014 and March 2015. The works were concentrated on the nave and north transept of the medieval church, parts of which were in urgent need of stabilisation and consolidation.

St Mary's Church was established as the parish church of Athenry shortly after the foundation of the town in 1235 and was made collegiate by Donatus, Archbishop of Tuam (1450-1485). The church was burnt in the revolt of the Earl of Clanricard's sons in 1574 and was never fully rebuilt. The Church of Ireland building, presently in use as a Heritage Centre, was built by the Board of First Fruits in 1828. It occupies the site of the chancel of the medieval church.

Monitoring of conservation works yielded evidence of several phases of construction and rebuild at the site. The late medieval church was cruciform in plan with a nave, chancel, north and south transepts, and probably a crossing tower. Substantial remains of the nave and transepts survive but the site of the chancel and crossing tower is occupied by the 19th-century Church of Ireland building. The original church was probably built in the mid-13th century and most likely consisted of an aisled nave and chancel. The building was extensively renovated in the later medieval period as the nave was reconfigured, and transepts were added on the north and south giving the church a cruciform plan. The most interesting architectural feature of the church is the 13th-century column of the south arcade of the original church nave, subsequently incorporated into the south wall of the reconfigured late medieval nave.

Site name: Athenry

Sites and Monuments Record No.: GA084-001006

Licence number: C000808; E004855

Author: Anne Carey

Site type: Castle - Anglo-Norman masonry castle

Period/Dating: Multi-period

ITM: E 550383 m, N 728020 m



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXXV

Monitoring of groundworks associated with the installation of a new external stairs was carried out under Ministerial Consent at Athenry Castle, a National Monument. Three trenches were manually excavated to the east of the castle, with two of the trenches facilitating the erection of the new stairs and the third trench accommodating access to the stairs. Excavation in all trenches achieved a depth of 0.3 m and a highly mixed topsoil only was revealed. No features of archaeological significance were discovered.

Site name: Athenry

Sites and Monuments Record No.: GA084-001006

Licence number: C000808; E004855

Author: Anne Carey

Site type: Castle - Anglo-Norman masonry castle

Period/Dating: Multi-period

ITM: E 550383 m, N 728020 m

Monitoring of groundworks associated with the installation of a new external stairs was carried out under Ministerial Consent at Athenry Castle, a National Monument. Three trenches were manually excavated to the east of the castle, with two of the trenches facilitating the erection of the new stairs and the third trench accommodating access to the stairs. Excavation in all trenches achieved a depth of 0.3 m and a highly mixed topsoil only was revealed. No features of archaeological significance were discovered.

Site name: Athenry: Church Street

Sites and Monuments Record No.: GA084-001

Licence number: E004395

Author: Martin Fitzpatrick, Arch Consultancy Ltd.

Site type: Graveyard

Period/Dating: Modern (AD 1750–2000)

ITM: E 550071 m, N 727783 m

Monitoring and excavation at the site of a new parish centre were undertaken over a period of eight weeks from 15 September 2011. The site is located on the grounds of the existing Roman Catholic Church (built in 1968) and adjacent to the site of the medieval town wall and moat (GA084-100). In the course of monitoring, some thirteen burials, associated with the 19th-century church that once occupied the site, were recorded and excavated. In addition, a partially collapsed vaulted burial chamber, containing at least three bodies, was uncovered. This chamber was built on the site of a lime-kiln, a portion of which survived to the south. It was possible to preserve the burial chamber *in situ*. Elsewhere on site, numerous large pits were uncovered and appear to have functioned as extraction pits associated with the construction of the 19th- and 20th-century churches at the site. The pits were excavated to extract sand and backfilled with loose stone and rubble. Throughout the site a number of medieval pits



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXXVI

were also uncovered, two of which produced fragments of 13th-century pottery and attest to medieval activity immediately outside the town walls.

Site name: Athenry: Church Street

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A

Licence number: 06E0177 ext.

Author: Fiona Rooney, Arch Consultancy Ltd.

Site type: Town defences

Period/Dating: Medieval (AD 400–1600)

ITM: E 550070 m, N 727782 m

Plans for a parish centre in the vicinity of the medieval town defences have been ongoing for a number of years. Testing was initially undertaken in 2006 when a small area was tested revealing a number of pit features (*Excavations 2006*, No. 742, 06E0177). In 2009 three trenches were excavated in the area of a proposed centre (*Excavations 2009*, No. 382, 06E0177 ext.). The testing uncovered the remains of six human burials and the moat of the town defences. Following submission of the archaeological report and correspondence from the National Monuments Division, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government it was decided to move the proposed development further away from the town defences. Plans for a new development were provisionally drawn up and this report deals with the testing associated with these plans. All of this work was undertaken in advance of a planning submission.

Testing was undertaken over a period of four days in 2010. Three trenches were excavated through the site of the proposed development. Two of the trenches were mechanically excavated adjacent to the church, while the third was manually excavated through an existing outhouse facing on to Church Street.

The first area tested is located to the immediate west of that tested in 2009. This location was examined to ascertain if burials extended into this area. The excavation of two trenches (Trenches 1 and 2) revealed no evidence for burials. Two pit features uncovered indicate human activity; however, the dating of this activity is not known and is most likely to be post-medieval. Testing found that the proposed development of the parish centre meeting rooms in this area will not encroach on burials or any structural features.

The second area tested is located within an existing outbuilding in the south-west of the church property. It is proposed that new parish meeting rooms be constructed at this site. The survey undertaken prior to testing revealed that the existing building was originally a stone-constructed outhouse/stable which was more recently altered to accommodate two adjoining sheds. The survey found that the north wall of this building corresponds with the town wall as indicated on the OS maps. The wall is roughly coursed with large and small uncut limestone and has mortar throughout. The almost random coursing has small packing stones in some areas. While it is uncertain if the existing wall is the original town wall, it does compare with the town wall in other areas of Athenry.

Testing involved the excavation of a single trench (divided into two trenches) through the outhouse. The testing found evidence for an earlier building and evidence for pit features and an area of burning.



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXXVII

Site name: Athenry: Church Street

Sites and Monuments Record No.: GA084-001

Licence number: 06E0177 ext.

Author: Fiona Rooney and Martin Fitzpatrick, Arch Consultancy Ltd.

Site type: Town defences and Burial

Period/Dating: Multi-period

ITM: E 550070 m, N 727782 m

The proposed development concerns the construction of a parish centre adjacent to the existing Catholic church in Athenry, Co. Galway. The site of the original town wall and moat was thought to survive to the immediate south-east of the development. Following consultation with the National Monuments Division, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, it was decided to test the area in advance of submitting a planning application. Testing was undertaken over a period of three days in September 2009. In the course of testing three trenches were excavated through the site of the proposed development. The trenches were excavated through an existing carpark and adjacent green space using a mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket.

In Trench A, excavation commenced in the northwest, where the gravel covering a modern sewer pipe was encountered directly below the carpark surface. Immediately south of the sewer pipe, the removal of tar and a small stone foundation for tar (C2) revealed a grey sandy clay (C3) at a depth of 0.19 m. This layer was excavated for a depth of 0.33 m and overlay a narrow band of compact clay (C4) 0.13 m deep. A number of cut stones were recovered from C3. C5, found directly below C4, consisted of a loose stone and sandy gravel with occasional large boulders. At 4.6 m from the north-west end of the trench a clay pipe was found cut into the sandy gravel (C3). At 9.7 m from the north-west end the concrete covering of a modern sewer pipe was encountered and extended for a width of 2 m. South of the concrete covering a loose clay layer (C6) was found directly below C2. At a depth of 1.2 m the lower torso of an adult human was uncovered. The burial was orientated east-west and an examination of the area revealed a number of coffin nails. The burial (Burial 1) as revealed consisted of the longer and shorter femur bones, patella, fibula and tibia as well as the tarsus, metatarsals and phalanges. These skeletal remains extended from the west baulk of the trench. Once the remains were recorded, no further excavation work was undertaken in this area.

A gunmetal pipe was found 1.1 m south-east of this burial running roughly east-west through the trench. Immediately south-east of the pipe two further human burials were encountered cut into the loose clay (C6). All of the burials (Burials 1-3) were found cut into C6 and were located at a depth of 1.22 m. All of the remains were orientated east-west and, from the evidence of nails found associated with them, had been buried in coffins. The lower limbs, pelvis, vertebrae and the lower ribs were exposed in Burial 2, while the lower limbs and pelvis were revealed in Burial 3. The burial in the north was larger in size than that to the south and would appear to be an adult, while the southern burial appears to be a female or possibly a child. Once the burials were exposed and recorded, no further excavation was undertaken in this area.

Trench B was excavated 4 m from Trench A and measured 15 m in length and 1.5 m wide. The stratigraphy was similar to Trench A with the tarred surface overlying the stone foundation for tar (C2). Below C2 there was the grey sandy clay (C3) at a depth of 0.19 m. This layer was excavated for a depth of 0.4 m. C5 was found directly below C3 and consisted of a loose stone and sandy gravel with occasional large boulders. At 9.6 m from the northwest end of the trench the concrete covering of the



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXXVIII

sewer pipe was exposed and extended for a width of *c.* 2 m. Immediately south of the concrete the loose clay (C6) was encountered directly below C2; 0.5m south of the concrete covering, Burial 4 was encountered at a depth of 1.22 m.

Burial 4 was the lower limbs, pelvis, vertebrae and the lower ribs of an east–west-orientated skeleton. An examination of the area surrounding the burial revealed a number of iron nails, indicating that the burial was originally in a coffin. Once revealed, no further excavation was undertaken in this area. The east–west-running pipe was uncovered 1.1 m south of Burial 4. Another human burial was uncovered 0.6 m south of the pipe and 2 m south of Burial 5. Burial 5 was the upper body, including the lower cranium, clavicle and sternum which was revealed in the west baulk of the trench. Located at a depth of 1.23 m this burial was found in C6.

Trench C was excavated in the west of the proposed development and measured 12 m in length and 1.5 m wide. The stratigraphy at the north-west end consisted of tar and tar foundation over a hard stoney gravel (C7), similar to C3 but more compact and more difficult to excavate. At the north end of the trench, excavations were a maximum of 0.4 m in depth. A concrete covering of a water pipe was encountered at a distance of 2m from the north-west end of the trench and extended diagonally for a length of 2.5 m. A human burial (Burial 6) was identified *c.* 0.7 m south of the pipe at a depth of 0.8 m. This burial was cut into C7 and appeared to be a child, orientated east–west and having evidence of a wooden box or coffin. Once the outline of the burial was exposed, no further excavation was undertaken in this area.

In the south-east end of the trench the concrete covering of the east–west-running sewer pipe was located. The gunmetal pipe was located 2 m from the concrete cover. Between these features the loose clay C6 was encountered below C2 and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.5 m. At the south-east end of the trench a rough stone layer was revealed at a depth of 1.3 m.

The proposed development is located immediately adjacent to the site of the town wall and within the area of archaeological significance. Today the area comprises a carpark and green space associated with the Church of Assumption which was completed in 1968 and is located on the site of the earlier parish church, which dates to the 19th century. The OS maps detail the plan of the earlier church and indicate that the area of the proposed development was located outside the church building and between the church and the town wall.

The results of testing indicate that burials are located throughout the area of the proposed development. The testing uncovered six human burials, but it is most likely that more burials are located at this site. Five of the six burials were located in the green-space area in the south-east of the trenches excavated, but one burial (Burial 6) is located in the centre of the carpark. All of the burials located in the south-east of the site are found at a depth of 1.22 m and all are found in a loose clay. Burial 6, however, is cut into a natural gravel layer and is found at a depth of 0.8 m. All of the six burials are orientated east–west and appear to have been buried in wooden coffins. From the layout of the 19th-century church as indicated on the various OS maps, it appears most likely that the burials are associated with this church.

Trenches A and B revealed burials at the southeast end, but in Trench C there were no burials at this end, and deeper excavations were possible. Unfortunately, the existence of a pipe and a concrete covering curtailed the excavations; however, it was possible to excavate to a depth of 1.7 m in one area. The stratigraphy here consisted of tar and tar foundation which overlay the loose clay (C6). Excavations revealed that this loose clay layer extends for a depth of at least 1.5 m and for a length of at least 4–4.5 m. It appears that this loose clay may represent the fill of the town fosse, which would have been located in this area. The fosse would have functioned as a defensive ditch up to 8 m in width, with its outer bank being almost 1 m in height. The fosse would probably have been filled with water diverted from



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXXIX

the Clarin River (Rynne 1981, unpublished survey of Athenry Walls). In 1985 Etienne Rynne excavated a portion of a fosse which runs just outside the town wall (*Excavations 1985*, No. 28). Although greatly disturbed in modern times, it was concluded that the feature was flat-bottomed, 1.7 m deep and almost 5.5 m in width. The concrete covering of the sewer pipe and the pipe itself appear to have been excavated at the outer edge of the fosse, thereby preventing locating the outer edge or confirming the existence of an outer bank here. The testing at the site suggests that the majority of burials are located in the original town fosse and that the fosse was filled with a loose clay.

In 1985 Rynne excavated a portion of a fosse which runs just outside the town wall. Although greatly disturbed in modern times, it was concluded that the feature was flat-bottomed, 1.7 m deep and almost 5.5 m in width. The concrete covering of the sewer pipe and the pipe itself appear to have been excavated at the outer edge of the fosse thereby preventing locating the outer edge or confirming the existence of an outer bank here. The archaeological testing at the site suggests that the majority of burials are located in the original town fosse and that the fosse was filled with a loose clay.

Site name: Athenry: Church Street

Sites and Monuments Record No.: GA084-001

Licence number: 07E0482

Author: Fiona Rooney, Arch Consultancy Ltd.

Site type: Town

Period/Dating: Modern (AD 1750-2000)

ITM: E 550070 m, N 727782 m

A proposed commercial development at Church Street, Athenry, required pre-development testing as a condition of planning permission. The development site is within the medieval town of Athenry and involved the demolition of an existing structure and construction of a new building. A single trench was excavated as part of the testing. The stratigraphy consisted of fill overlying bedrock, with 20th-century bottle and ceramic fragments recovered from the mixed fill. The recording of bedrock level at such a height within the town is interesting, as previous archaeological work in the vicinity did not reveal such a level.

Site name: Athenry: Church Street

Sites and Monuments Record No.: GA084-001

Licence number: 06E0177

Author: Fiona Rooney, Arch Consultancy Ltd.

Site type: Town defences

Period/Dating: Medieval (AD 400-1600)

ITM: E 550070 m, N 727782 m



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXXX

Following consultation with National Monuments, it was recommended that testing should be undertaken in the area of a proposed pastoral centre south of the existing Roman Catholic church at Church Street Athenry. The proposed development would be located in the vicinity of the medieval town wall. Two trenches were excavated in the area of the development. The testing revealed archaeological features in the form of small pits at a depth of 0.9 m. It was recommended that archaeological excavations be undertaken if the development was to proceed at this site.

Site name: Athenry: Cross Street

Sites and Monuments Record No.: GA084-001

Licence number: E2900; C182

Author: Dominic Delany, Dominic Delany and Associates

Site type: Town

Period/Dating: Modern (AD 1750-2000)

ITM: E 550202 m, N 727780 m

A programme of pre-development test-pitting was carried out on a proposed development site at Cross Street, Athenry, Co. Galway, on 10 and 11 April 2007. Nineteen test-pits, each measuring c. 2 m², were plotted on a 40 m grid system and excavated using a tracked excavator fitted with a wide grading bucket. A total of 15 features were uncovered. These comprised eight linear cuts, two subcircular features, three fire spots, a cobbled surface and a wall footing. The testing confirmed the findings of previous and more extensive programmes of testing at the site. There is much evidence of previous ground disturbance across the site, with a considerable depth of overburden present in some parts of the site and frequent cuts into the underlying subsoil. Much of the ground disturbance is considered to be associated with the development of Athenry House, but the site is known to retain considerable archaeological potential.

Site name: Athenry: Cross Street

Sites and Monuments Record No.: GA084-001

Licence number: 06E0021

Author: Dominic Delany, Dominic Delany and Associates

Site type: Town

Period/Dating: Modern (AD 1750-2000)

ITM: E 550202 m, N 727780 m

Two phases of pre-development testing were carried out on a proposed mixed-use development site at Cross Street, Athenry, Co. Galway, in January and November 2006. The site is located in the heart of the medieval town and consisted of an open courtyard area surrounded by dilapidated galvanised sheds with lofts above, and a dwelling house with a long garden plot to the rear.



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXXXI

The first phase of testing comprised the excavation of three trenches, 25–30 m in length, in the courtyard area. A layer of modern overburden, 0.3m in thickness, covered the site. This generally overlay an old garden soil deposit, which varied between 0.3 and 0.5 m in thickness and overlay orange/brown clay subsoil and grey coarse sand and gravel. Traces of a cobbled surface were exposed just below the existing yard surface. Several pits and linear features were also uncovered, but these were deemed to be relatively modern and of no archaeological significance. A second phase of testing was carried out in November 2006. This phase was concerned with the long garden plot to the rear of the dwelling and the footprint of the (now demolished) outbuildings. The stratigraphic sequence was similar to that recorded during the initial phase of testing. No archaeological material was uncovered.

Site name: Athenry: Cross Street

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A

Licence number: 02E1758

Author: Fiona Rooney, Arch. Consultancy Ltd.

Site type: No archaeology found

Period/Dating: N/A

ITM: E 550202 m, N 727780 m

Pre-development testing was undertaken at Cross Street, Athenry, which is within the medieval walls of the town. Two trenches were mechanically excavated, both oriented east–west, 13.5 m long and 1 m wide. Trench A was excavated to a depth of 0.8–0.9m, and Trench B to a maximum depth of 1 m. The removal of the demolition debris revealed a stony rubble layer in both trenches. Occasional fragments of red brick and pottery were recovered from this layer, all of which were of late 20th-century date. Underlying this was a dark brown, silty clay layer with an average depth of 0.3 m. There was no evidence of features/deposits of archaeological significance.

Site name: Athenry: Cross Street

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A

Licence number: 01E0096

Author: Fiona Rooney, Arch. Consultancy Ltd.

Site type: No archaeology found

Period/Dating: N/A

ITM: E 550202 m, N 727780 m

The development was situated on Cross Street, Athenry, and concerned the renovation of and an extension to a public house. The location of the development in a zone of archaeological potential necessitated pre-development testing. Three trenches were mechanically excavated. The stratigraphy revealed did not indicate any evidence of features/deposits of archaeological significance. The layers present were comprised of a concrete surface and gravel layer, a stony rubble layer, a blackish brown silty layer and the natural bedrock. Finds included occasional modern glass, red brick and fragments



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXXXII

of 20th-century pottery. The proposed extension on the site will involve the removal of soil for a depth of 0.45–0.5 m. This work would not appear to affect any archaeological layers.

Site name: Athenry: Cross Street

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A

Licence number: 99E0070

Author: Fiona Rooney, Arch. Consultancy Ltd.

Site type: Excavation - miscellaneous

Period/Dating: Undetermined

ITM: E 550202 m, N 727780 m

The proposed development concerned the erection of two stores and the extension to the rear of the present building. The development is within the Zone of Archaeological Potential of Athenry, and therefore pre-development testing was required.

Three trenches were mechanically excavated. The stratigraphy revealed indicated no evidence of features/deposits of archaeological significance. The layers present consisted of a dark brown garden soil overlying the natural.

Site name: Athenry: Cross Street

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A

Licence number: 98E0553

Author: Martin Fitzpatrick, Archaeological Consultancy

Site type: No archaeology found

Period/Dating: N/A

ITM: E 550202 m, N 727780 m

Pre-development testing in the form of trial trenches took place to establish the nature and extent of any archaeological features or deposits at Cross Street, Athenry, Co. Galway. Three trenches were mechanically excavated, with nothing of archaeological significance uncovered.

Site name: Athenry: Barrack Lane

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 84:1

Licence number: 97E0150

Author: Dominic Delany

Site type: No archaeology found



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXXXIII

Period/Dating: N/A

ITM: E 550303 m, N 727808 m

Archaeological test excavation was carried out in advance of a proposed residential development at Barrack Lane, Athenry, Co. Galway, in May 1997. The site, measuring approximately 35 m², is situated at the east end of Barrack Lane and lies directly across the road from the ruins of the medieval Dominican Friary. Though an Anglo-Norman foundation, the friary owed much to native Irish patronage, with the O'Connors, O'Heynes and O'Kellys all contributing to its early development. The monastery was extensively damaged by fire in 1423, necessitating large-scale rebuilding. In 1574 it was dissolved and granted to the town, and in 1627 the friary was granted to Galway merchants, who allowed the friars to return and restored all the buildings. The Cromwellians expelled the friars in 1652, and the friary was a ruin by the end of the century. The conventual buildings were demolished about 1750 to make way for a military barracks.

A mass concrete house and stone shed were demolished in advance of the excavation, and four medieval dressed stones and architectural fragments were recovered from the stone dump. The stones were probably taken from the nearby friary church and reused as cornerstones in the construction of the shed. Following demolition, four test-trenches were excavated at the site. The stratigraphy was consistent across the excavated area. The topsoil consisted of a dark brown silty clay with inclusions of roots, pebbles, cobbles and flecks of charcoal. It was 0.25 m deep and overlay a mid-brown silty clay with inclusions of roots, pebbles, animal bone, brick, mortar and flecks of charcoal. These silty clays produced several modern pottery sherds and glass fragments. A naturally occurring light grey medium sand and gravel was encountered at 0.7 m below the old ground level. A fill of stones and redeposited soil was uncovered at the eastern end of the trenches. This fill appears to be associated with the banking of the small stream (River Clareen) which forms the eastern site boundary. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered.

Site name: Athenry: Barrack Lane

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A

Licence number: 01E0847

Author: Martin Fitzpatrick, Arch. Consultancy Ltd.

Site type: No archaeology found

Period/Dating: N/A

ITM: E 550303 m, N 727808 m

Pre-development testing was undertaken in compliance with a condition of planning permission. It was concerned with the demolition of an extension to the rear of a dwelling-house and the construction of a single-storey extension to the rear of same.

Two trenches were mechanically excavated. In Trench A (8 m by 1 m) the removal of sod uncovered a mixed brown layer (0.6 m in depth) with moderate stone inclusions. Fragments of red brick and pottery of 20th-century date were recovered from this layer. Underlying this was a grey/yellow boulder clay. In Trench B (7 m by 1 m) the stratigraphy was similar, with a brown clayey subsoil underlying the surface and overlying the natural boulder clay. No features/deposits of archaeological significance were encountered in either of the trenches



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXXXIV

Site name: Athenry: Barrack Lane

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 84:1

Licence number: 97E0150

Author: Dominic Delany

Site type: No archaeology found

Period/Dating: N/A

ITM: E 550303 m, N 727808 m

Archaeological test excavation was carried out in advance of a proposed residential development at Barrack Lane, Athenry, Co. Galway, in May 1997. The site, measuring approximately 35 m², is situated at the east end of Barrack Lane and lies directly across the road from the ruins of the medieval Dominican Friary. Though an Anglo-Norman foundation, the friary owed much to native Irish patronage, with the O'Connors, O'Heynes and O'Kellys all contributing to its early development. The monastery was extensively damaged by fire in 1423, necessitating large-scale rebuilding. In 1574 it was dissolved and granted to the town, and in 1627 the friary was granted to Galway merchants, who allowed the friars to return and restored all the buildings. The Cromwellians expelled the friars in 1652, and the friary was a ruin by the end of the century. The conventual buildings were demolished about 1750 to make way for a military barracks.

A mass concrete house and stone shed were demolished in advance of the excavation, and four medieval dressed stones and architectural fragments were recovered from the stone dump. The stones were probably taken from the nearby friary church and reused as cornerstones in the construction of the shed. Following demolition, four test-trenches were excavated at the site. The stratigraphy was consistent across the excavated area. The topsoil consisted of a dark brown silty clay with inclusions of roots, pebbles, cobbles and flecks of charcoal. It was 0.25 m deep and overlay a mid-brown silty clay with inclusions of roots, pebbles, animal bone, brick, mortar and flecks of charcoal. These silty clays produced several modern pottery sherds and glass fragments. A naturally occurring light grey medium sand and gravel was encountered at 0.7 m below the old ground level. A fill of stones and redeposited soil was uncovered at the eastern end of the trenches. This fill appears to be associated with the banking of the small stream (River Clareen) which forms the eastern site boundary. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered.

Site name: Athenry

Sites and Monuments Record No.: GA084-001

Licence number: E3995; C309

Author: David J. O'Connor, CRDS Ltd.

Site type: Town defences

Period/Dating: Medieval (AD 400-1600)

ITM: E 549998 m, N 728490 m

Limited excavation of areas around the base of the South-East Tower, part of the Athenry medieval town defences, was undertaken at the request of Galway County Council. The excavation entailed three



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXXXV

cuttings around the base of the tower (Cuttings 1–3). Excavation was limited to the overburden and sod layer down to undisturbed archaeological levels. The aim of the excavation was to recover stone that might have collapsed from the tower and town wall and to allow a stable ground level for scaffolding, which was to be erected to allow conservation works to commence on the tower itself.

Cutting 1 was situated to the south-east of the tower, outside the town walls. It measured 7.8 m by 5 m by 4.25 m and revealed that a significant deposit of modern rubbish, probably dating from the 1990s, had been dumped at the base of the tower, and large stones, probably brought in from elsewhere, were used to cover this waste material. Underneath the sod a number of gravel and sandy layers were uncovered, which were not excavated. These layers possibly represent the build-up of waterborne materials in the area where there was a moat. Cartographic evidence shows the moat flooded up to at least the mid-19th century.

Cutting 2 was situated inside the town wall, at the base of the tower. The cutting measured 4.7 m by 4.18 m and revealed a demolition layer under the sod. This layer was excavated down to a second demolition layer, which was left *in situ*. The layer appears to date to the 19th century and is highly enriched with mortar fragments and small to medium stones. It is believed that deliberate robbing of cut stones took place, with the stones being cleaned of mortar on-site. An earlier demolition layer was not excavated and remains *in situ*.

Cutting 3 was situated to the north of the tower, outside the town wall. The cutting measured 1.53 m by 1.13 m. As with Cutting 1, modern dumped material was sitting directly on the sod layer. Underneath, similar gravel layers were uncovered, which were left *in situ*.

Metal detection of all spoil was undertaken throughout the excavation.

Site name: Athenry: Prospect

Sites and Monuments Record No.: GA084-001

Licence number: 11E0301

Author: Martin Fitzpatrick, Arch Consultancy Ltd.

Site type: Town defences

Period/Dating: Medieval (AD 400–1600)

ITM: E 549552 m, N 727431 m

The monitoring of a domestic water connection was undertaken over a period of two days in August 2011. The trench for the pipeline crossed the site of the medieval wall where a gateway gave access to the property. Removal of topsoil (0.2 m deep) on either side of the basal plinth indicated that the entranceway was constructed directly on top of the original town wall. Stones from the wall extended 0.25m south of the gateway lintel and 0.3 m north of the lintel, indicating that the wall was 0.85 m in width. It appears that the original wall was levelled off, and the existing pedestrian entranceway constructed on top of it. It proved possible to place the water pipe immediately below the existing plinth of the pedestrian entranceway and above the stones, thereby avoiding disturbance to the original wall feature. A 0.5 m-wide trench on either side of the town wall was excavated to a depth of 0.4–0.75 m. While this trench is in the area of the original moat, it was found to consist of fill material, with no artefacts or features of archaeological significance encountered.



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXXXVI

Site name: Newford

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A

Licence number: 17E0632

Author: Martin Fitzpatrick

Site type: No archaeology found

Period/Dating: N/A

ITM: E 549875 m, N 727110 m

The development involved the construction of an upgrade to a water treatment plant in the townland of Newford, on the outskirts of Athenry. Conditions 6 of the grant of Planning Permission (Planning Ref. 16/799) recommended monitoring of ground disturbance associated with the development. The monitoring was undertaken over a period of 15 days between December 2017 and May 2018. Excavations for the replacement of the existing inlet works, a storm bank, aeration tank, clarification tanks, a sludge storage tank and all ancillary work were monitored. Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered with the stratigraphy indicating made-up ground overlying natural silt.

Site name: Newford, Athenry

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A

Licence number: 17E0632

Author: Martin Fitzpatrick

Site type: No archaeology found

Period/Dating: N/A

ITM: E 549886 m, N 727103 m

Monitoring of ground disturbance associated with the upgrading of the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant on the outskirts of Athenry town in County Galway was undertaken over a period of 14 days between December 2017 and May 2018. The monitoring established that much of the site, particularly in the south and west, had previously been disturbed with made-up ground, mixed layers and stone fill throughout. In the north of the site a light brown sandy clay was encountered below the topsoil and would appear to represent the natural subsoil layer.

The monitoring of ground disturbance associated with the development revealed nothing of archaeological significance and the development will not impact on any sub-surface archaeological layers or features.

Site name: Baunmore

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A

Licence number: A024/2.40

Author: Tom Janes, Headland Archaeology Ltd.



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXXXVII

Site type: Excavation - miscellaneous

Period/Dating: Undetermined

ITM: E 550391 m, N 727328 m

The archaeological remains here comprised a small subcircular post-hole-shaped cut feature with a charcoal-rich fill, which would appear to have truncated a shallow linear cut feature. Situated at the base of the linear cut and immediately north of this cut was a small subcircular-shaped cut feature. The trench was extended on the western side and a rectangular area measuring 5 m (east–west) by 6 m was opened. No further features were discovered towards the west; however, it is possible that the site may extend towards the east under the field boundary wall and the regional road R347.

The work was commissioned by Galway County Council National Roads Design Office and sponsored by the National Roads Authority.

Site name: Swangate, Athenry

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 84:1

Licence number: 96E0377

Author: Anne Connolly, Archaeological Services Unit Ltd

Site type: Excavation - miscellaneous

Period/Dating: Undetermined

ITM: E 550161 m, N 727128 m

A small housing development commenced at the site of Swangate, Athenry, in November 1996 without a pre-development archaeological assessment, which had not been requested as part of the planning process. The matter was reported to the National Monuments Service and recommendations were made immediately to the effect that the on-site building work should be suspended pending archaeological testing.

This was carried out in December 1996 and comprised the mechanical excavation of one trial-trench, parallel with the foundations of the development. The stratigraphy encountered was mainly shallow and had modern inclusions. At the south-west end of the trench a U-shaped cut was observed, 1.4 m in depth below ground level, with a smaller, D-shaped cut located adjacent to it on the north. There were occasional finds of animal bone from the fill of the larger of the cuts, but no other material was recovered.

Site name: Athenry: Farranablake East

Sites and Monuments Record No.: GA084-027

Licence number: 16E0165

Author: Kate Taylor, TVAS (Ireland) Ltd

Site type: Ringfort - rath



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXXXVIII

Period/Dating: Early Medieval (AD 400–1099)

ITM: E 550340 m, N 726870 m

Following test trenching under this licence in 2016, an excavation was carried out in advance of a nursing home extension. The site is partially located on top of a known monument, ringfort GA084-027, which is also truncated by a road.

The excavation confirmed the results of testing, and demonstrated that, despite severe truncation, part of the ditch of the ringfort survived within the development site. An 8.3 m length of the ditch survived within the site, and this was fully excavated. Due to differential truncation relating to the original construction of the nursing home some years ago, the ditch survived almost intact at the south but was entirely truncated at the north. At the north the ditch was just 1.45 m wide and 0.41 m deep, whilst at the south it survived to a width of 3.35 m and its full depth was seen to be 1.9 m. The ditch had steep straight sides and a flat base, with a step evident along the eastern edge.

At the southern edge of the site part of an entrance to the enclosure was revealed. The main part of the ditch had a rounded terminus which sloped up to a partial-depth causeway. On either side of the causeway (east and west) was a gully that connected into the ditch terminus. Just 1.3 m of the causeway was visible within the excavated area as it extends southwards beneath tree stumps that form the site boundary and into the adjacent field, but it is clear that the entrance structure was complex and well-constructed. The causeway surface was at a level approximately 1.28 m above the base of the ditch, 0.6 m below the original natural surface, and sloped down slightly to the west. The eastern gully was 1.7 m wide and 1.05 m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base whilst that at the west was 1.15 m wide and 0.38 m deep with a more gently concave profile.

The ditch produced a moderate amount of animal bone, some shell, iron slag and a piece of pottery. A small sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from partway down the fill sequence, perhaps indicating that the upper part of the ditch was infilled in the post-medieval period; however, the pottery could be intrusive, introduced into the loose deposit by the many tree roots which extended to the base of the ditch.

A radiocarbon determination was obtained from a piece of animal bone from near the base of the ditch and this dates the monument to the 7th to 9th century AD – Cal. AD 671–868 (UBA-35099; 1256±34 BP; 2 sigma).

Site name: Baunmore (Athenry By), Boyhill and Farranablake East

Sites and Monuments Record No.: GA084-027

Licence number: 15E0181

Author: Nora Bermingham, TVAS Ireland Ltd.

Site type: No archaeology found

Period/Dating: N/A

ITM: E 550521 m, N 726778 m

Monitoring was undertaken on the Athenry Watermains Rehabilitation Project Phase 1, Co. Galway. It is proposed to upgrade the watermain in Athenry, Co. Galway (Galway County Council – exempt



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page LXXXIX

development). These works form part of the Galway Watermains Rehabilitation Project Phase 1, which covers Ballinasloe, Oranmore, Athenry and Headford, Co. Galway.

The project consisted of the laying of approximately 375 m of watermain along a regional road (R348) south of Athenry town centre and replacing some connections within the existing watermain nearby. The works were located within the existing road network and took place along the road that forms the boundary between the townlands of Baunmore, Boyhill and Farranablake East in the parish of Athenry, in the barony of Athenry, Co. Galway.

Works took place outside a large graveyard (GA084-027001), which occupies the site of a large circular banked enclosure (GA084-027). Historic mapping shows that this enclosure was bisected by a road, the R347, and lies immediately south of the junction of this road and the R348 along which the works took place.

Monitoring was undertaken in order to supplement existing documentary research completed in relation to these works and, specifically, to establish the nature and extent of any archaeological deposits and features. Monitoring took place between 17 and 20 November 2015. The excavation of pipe trenches in the designated area was monitored sporadically, and trench faces were cleaned by hand when it was deemed necessary. Trench excavations were mostly carried out using a 20-tonne tracked excavator, fitted with a 0.6 m wide toothless grading bucket. Trench depth was typically 1 m.

Trenching was through made-ground, specifically gravel deposited when the R438 was upgraded sometime within the last five years. This gravel was present for approximately 145 m of the trench's length and directly opposite the existing graveyard. This part of the trench was, therefore, cut through already truncated deposits and along the line of a pre-existing road trench. The remainder of the trench, approximately 230 m, was cut through road top and glacial till. The road deposits comprised tarmac over hard core, with this combination reaching up to 0.2 m thick. This lay directly on 0.6–0.8 m of glacial till. Topsoil was absent and it appears it was removed in advance of construction of the road. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were observed during the monitoring.

Documentary research completed previously showed that the development site lies within an area of archaeological potential with a number of significant monuments recorded in the vicinity. However, as no archaeological features or deposits were observed during monitoring, no archaeological monuments were impacted by the element of the works that were subject to archaeological monitoring.

Site name: Baunmore

Sites and Monuments Record No.: GA084-027

Licence number: 13E0260 ext.

Author: Dominic Delany, Dominic Delany & Associates

Site type: Burial

Period/Dating: Undetermined

ITM: E 550885 m, N 726915 m

Monitoring and excavation took place in advance of a proposed new junction of the R347 and R348 at Baunmore just south of Athenry, Co. Galway in late October 2014. A burial was uncovered during testing at this site in September 2013. The lower legs (tibiae and feet), the right side of the pelvis and



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XC

lower right arm were truncated. The *in situ* skeletal remains were poorly preserved and most of the bones, including the skull, were crushed and fragmented. A small, corroded iron object, probably a buckle, was found in the pelvic area of the skeleton and is almost certainly associated with the burial.

There are a number of factors which may account for the isolated burial at Baunmore, the adjacent townland boundary, ringfort and cemetery being the obvious ones. It is considered unlikely that the burial is associated with the townland boundary which is located less than 10m to the south. It is more likely to be associated with the impressive ringfort GA084-027 located directly across the road, for burials are often found outside the enclosing elements of such sites. The existence of a large cemetery around the ringfort provides another possible context for the burial, for many individuals, including paupers, suicides, the unbaptised and strangers were frequently interred outside consecrated burial grounds. Although the Baunmore burial is likely to pre-date this early 20th-century burial ground, the cemetery's presence at this location may indicate a longstanding tradition of burial in this area. The discovery of three burials in the vicinity of the smaller ringfort (GA084-032) 200m to the south supports this hypothesis.

Site name: Baunmore

Sites and Monuments Record No.: GA084-027

Licence number: 13E0260

Author: Dominic Delany, Dominic Delany & Associates

Site type: Burial

Period/Dating: Undetermined

ITM: E 550885 m, N 726915 m

Test excavation took place on a green field site at Baunmore, Co. Galway on 5 September 2013. The work was commissioned by Galway County Council in mitigation of a proposed new junction of the R348 and R347, approximately 1.5 km south-east of the medieval town of Athenry. A strip of land on the east side of the existing junction was acquired by the council for the purpose of developing the new junction. GA084-027 (Ringfort) and GA084-02701 (Graveyard) are located directly across the road, on the south side of the junction, and comprise the well-preserved remains of the east part of a large ringfort located within the grounds of a modern cemetery.

Five test trenches were opened; two centreline trenches measuring 60 m and 140 m, and three offsets located at 20 m intervals and ranging from 15-25 m in length. A human burial and a shallow pit feature were uncovered. The exposed human skeletal remains consisted of two femurs and part of the pelvis with phalanges resting over the pelvic area. The remains lay adjacent to a large angular limestone boulder located on the south-west side of the burial. The skeleton was not excavated, and the exposed remains were marked and covered with protective sheeting prior to trench reinstatement. The burial may be associated with the nearby ringfort, representing an internment outside its enclosing element, or with the adjacent townland boundary, which follows the line of the R348 between the burial and the ringfort. The location of a cemetery directly across the road may also be significant. Though this cemetery is modern it may have been developed on or near a site traditionally associated with funerary activity. The pit feature is irregular in plan measuring 1.3 m in diameter and 0.14 m deep. Finds from the charcoal-rich silt fill included some possible burnt bone fragments. Full excavation of the site is recommended should the development proceed as proposed.



No:	SF-155	Version:	2.0	Effective Date:	27/11/2025
Title:	An Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway				Page XCI

Site name: Furzypark

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A

Licence number: A024/3, E2553

Author: Brendon Wilkins, Headland Archaeology Ltd.

Site type: Burnt mound

Period/Dating: Prehistoric (12700 BC–AD 400)

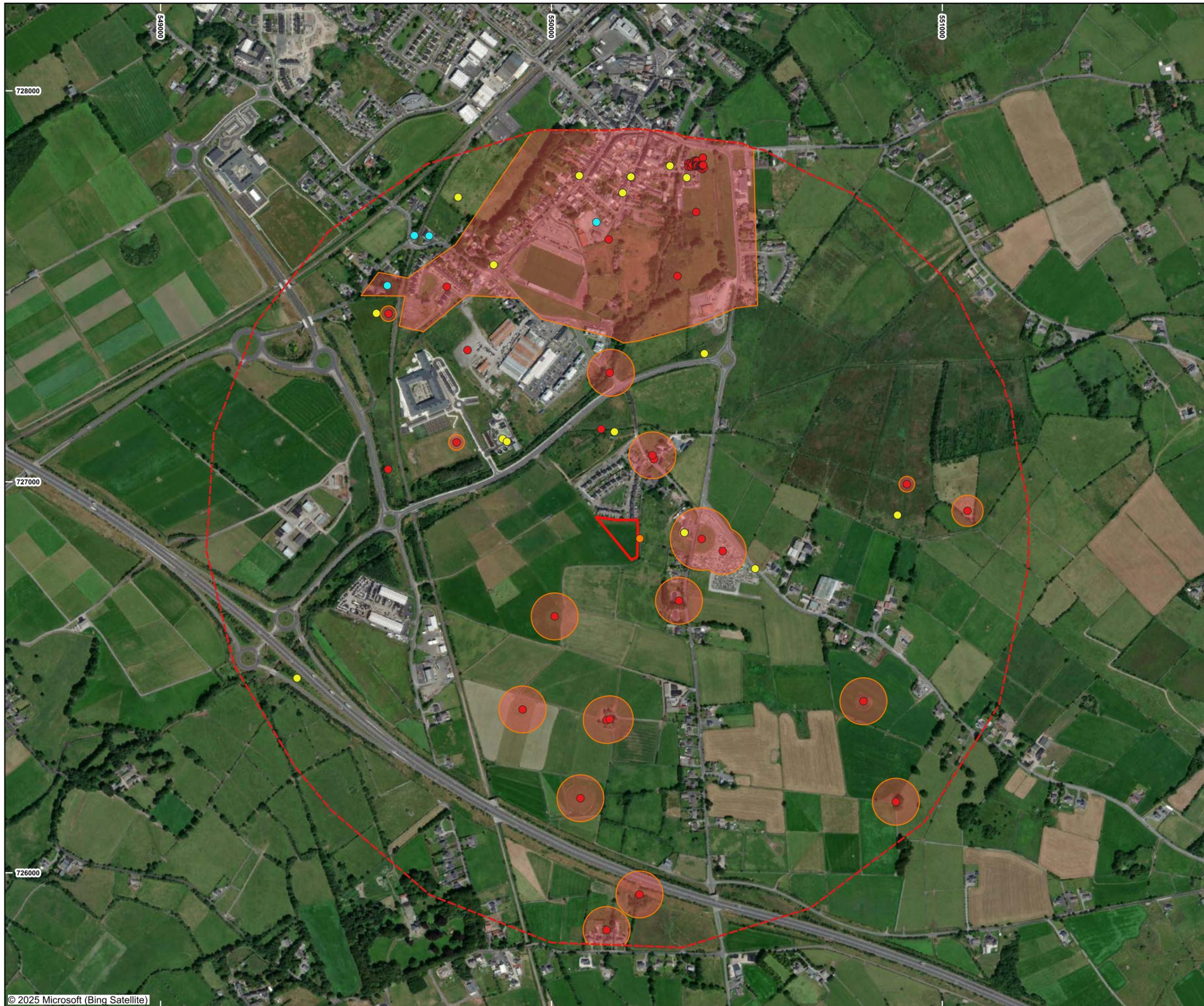
ITM: E 549349 m, N 726498 m

Excavation was carried out in advance of construction on the N6 Galway to Ballinasloe Road scheme; the site was located 1.5 km from the town of Athenry. Testing by Tom Janes in 2005 (*Excavations 2005*, No. 597) identified a heavily eroded burnt spread. Excavation revealed the burnt-mound material was 11.4 m by 8.5 m in width and a maximum of 0.44 m in depth. Beneath the burnt-mound material a layer of clayey silt contained a concentration of prehistoric pottery. There was no negative cut features associated with the burnt mound.

The above work was made possible as a result of funding and cooperation from Galway County Council and the National Roads Authority



Figure 1 - Site Location.



Legend

Site Data

- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area

CH List_Baseline Value

- Very High
- Medium/High
- Medium/Low
- Low
- SMR-Zones

Project: RH1891 -
 Pairc na hAbhainn
 Housing Development

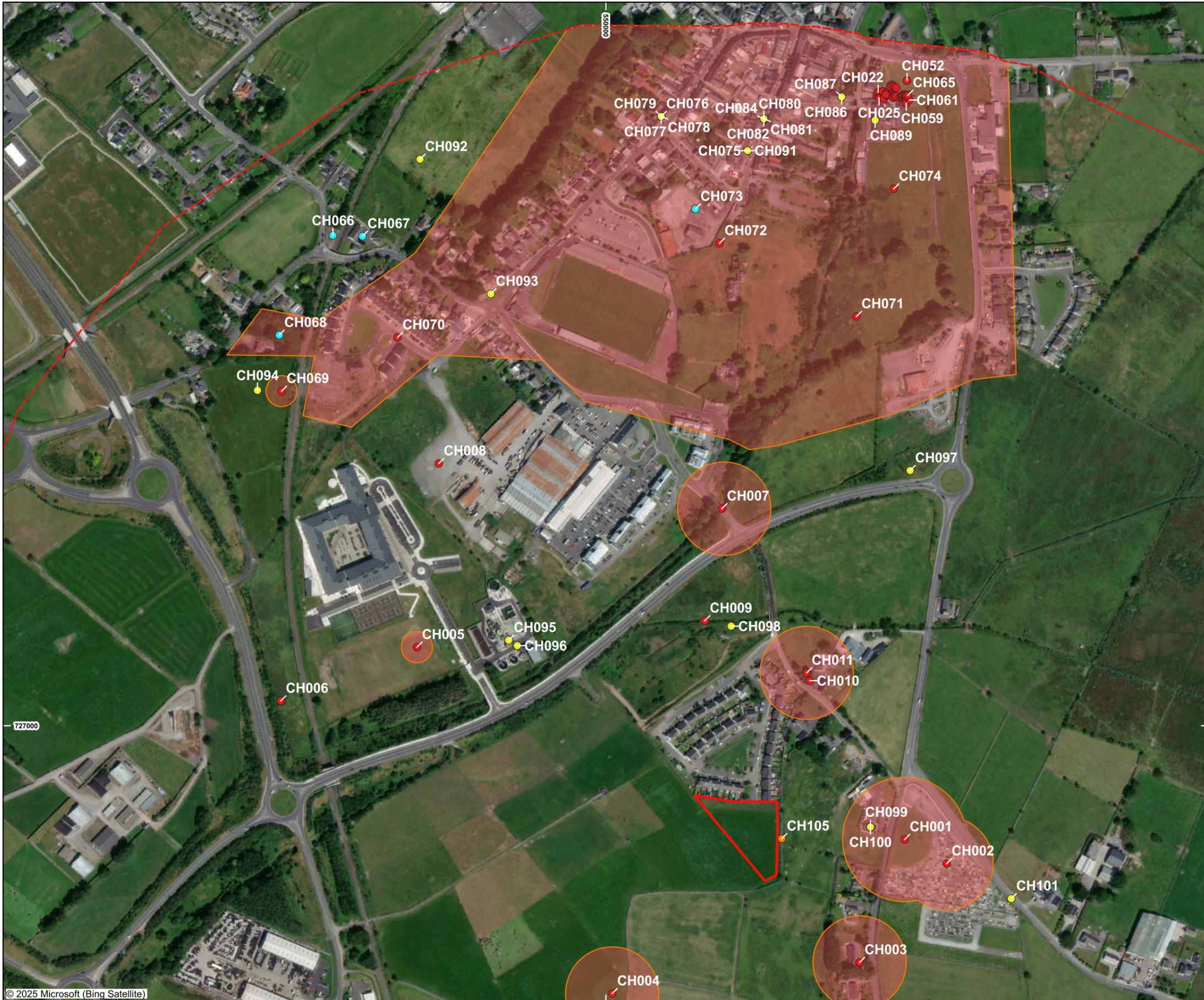
Prepared by: J. Flynn
 Approved by:
 R.Morgan-James

Status: AIA
 Draft: 1.0

Date: 27/11/2025
 Scale: 1:10,000 @ A3



Figure 2.0 -Cultural Heritage sites within the proposed development study area.



Legend

- Site Data**
- Site Boundary
 - 1km Study Area
- CH List_Baseline Value**
- Very High
 - Medium/High
 - Medium/Low
 - Low
 - SMR-Zones



Project: RH1891 - Pairc na hAbhainn Housing Development	Prepared by: J. Flynn Approved by: R.Morgan-James
Status: AIA Draft: 1.0	Date: 27/11/2025 Scale: 1:5,000 @ A3



Figure 2.1 -Cultural Heritage sites within the proposed development study area.



Legend

- Site Data**
-  Site Boundary
 -  1km Study Area
- CH List_Baseline Value**
-  Very High
 -  Medium/High
 -  Medium/Low
 -  Low
 -  SMR-Zones



Project: RH1891 - Pairc na hAbhainn Housing Development	Prepared by: J. Flynn Approved by: R.Morgan-James
Status: AIA Draft: 1.0	Date: 27/11/2025 Scale: 1:5,000 @ A3



Figure 2.2 -Cultural Heritage sites within the proposed development study area.

Legend

Site Data

-  Site Boundary
-  1km Study Area
- CH List_Baseline Value**
-  Very High
-  Medium/High
-  Medium/Low
-  Low
-  SMR-Zones

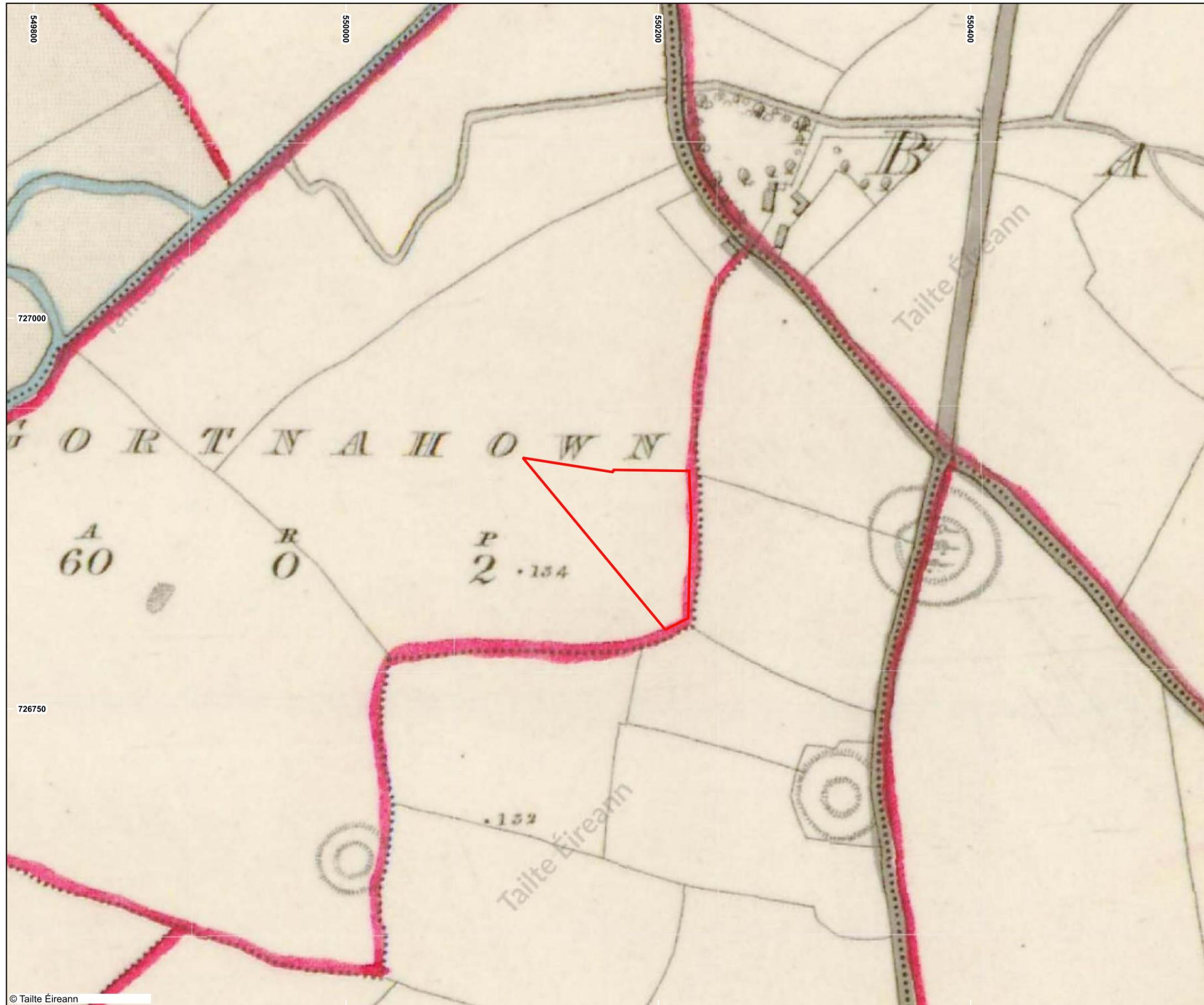


Project: RH1891 - Pairc na hAbhainn Housing Development	Prepared by: J. Flynn Approved by: R.Morgan-James
---	---

Status: AIA Draft: 1.0	Date: 27/11/2025 Scale: 1:500 @ A3
---------------------------	---------------------------------------



Figure 2.3 -Cultural Heritage sites within the proposed development study area.



Legend

 Site Boundary

Project: RH1891 - Pairc na hAbhainn Housing Development

Prepared by: J. Flynn
Approved by: R.MorganJames

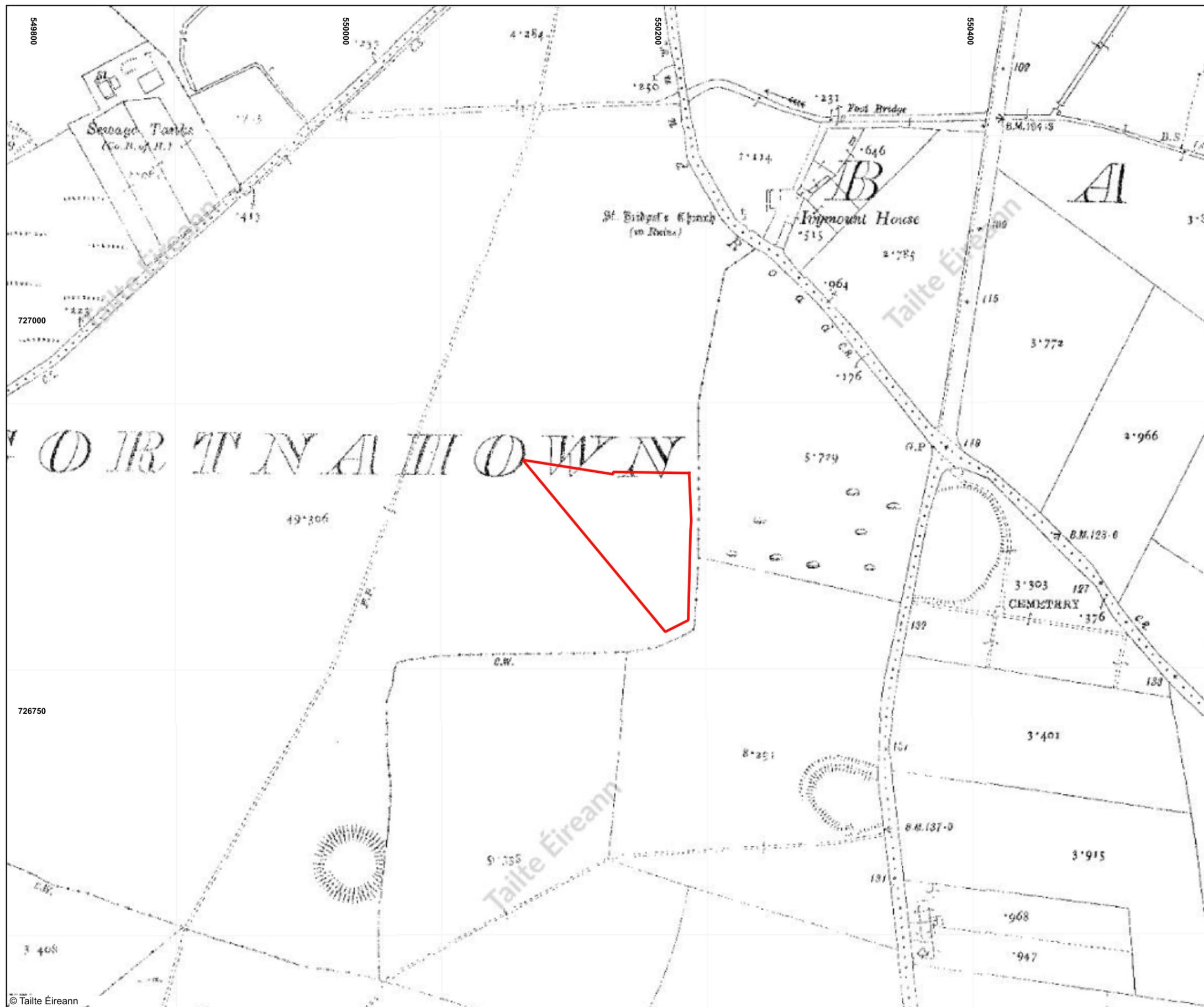
Status: AIA
Draft: 1.0

Date: 26/09/2025
Scale: 1:2,500 @ A3

25 50 75 100 125 m



Figure 3 - First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey map with the proposed development.



Legend

— Site Boundary

Project: RH1891 - Pairc na hAbhainn Housing Development

Prepared by: J. Flynn
Approved by: R.MorganJames

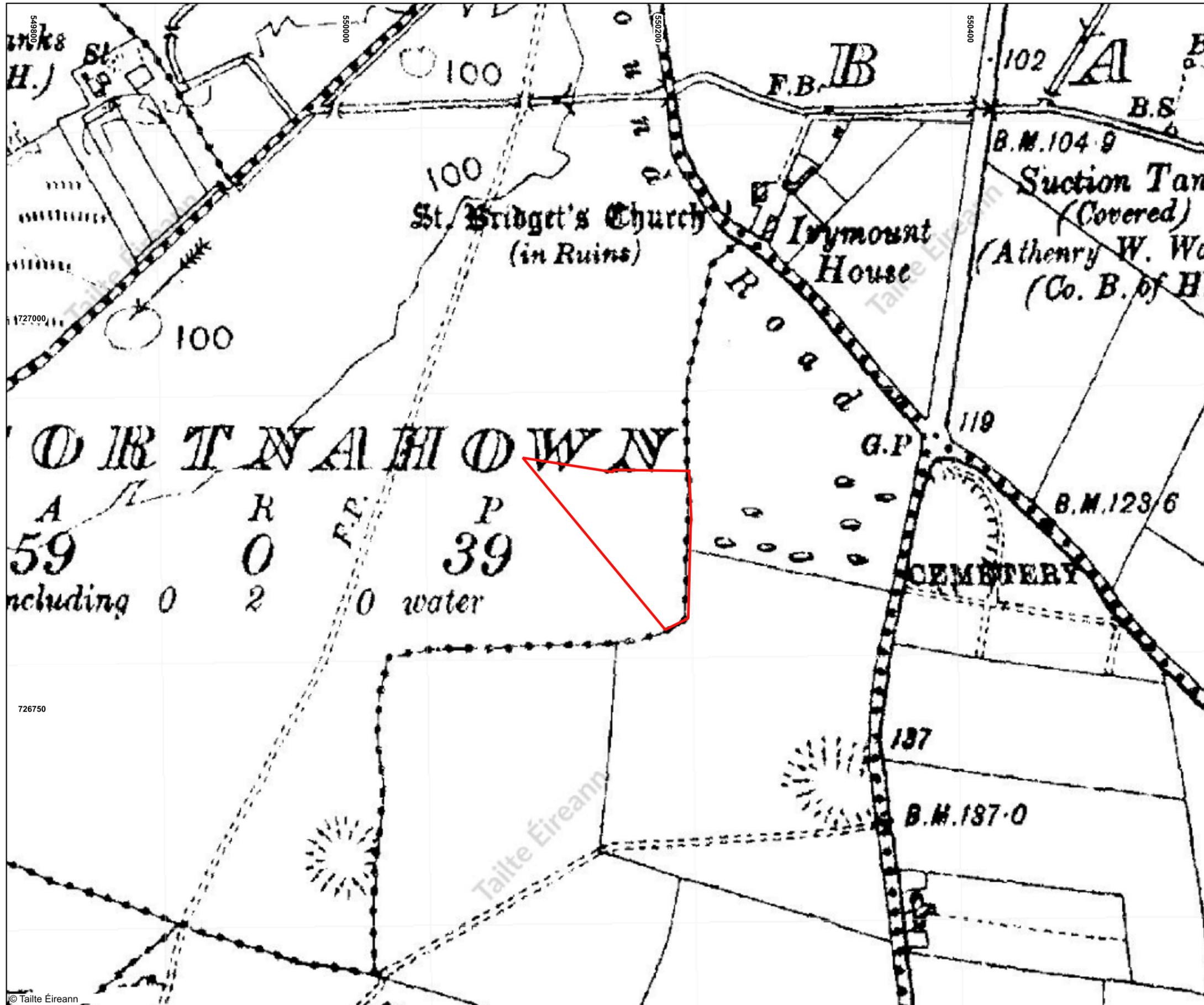
Status: AIA
Draft: 1.0

Date: 26/09/2025
Scale: 1:2,500 @ A3

25 50 75 100 125 m



Figure 4 - First Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map with the proposed development



Legend

— Site Boundary

Project: RH1891 - Pairc na hAbhainn Housing Development
Prepared by: J. Flynn
Approved by: R.MorganJames

Status: AIA
Draft: 1.0
Date: 26/09/2025
Scale: 1:2,500 @ A3

25 50 75 100 125 m



Figure 5 - Cassini 6-inch edition Ordnance Survey map with the proposed development