

Main Street, Durrow, Ballymoe, Co. Galway

Desk-Based Archaeological Assessment Report

Margaret McNamara and Orlagh Walsh

TVAS Ireland Ltd

J21/49

November 2021

ITM 569480 771510

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Summary

Townlands: Ballaghymurry, Durrow Parishes: Kilcroan, Drumatemple Barony: Ballymoe County: Galway Planning Ref. No: Pre-planning Grid reference: ITM 569480 771510 Naturally occurring geology: Not observed but general area lies on limestone bedrock TVAS Ireland Job No: J21/49 Licence No: n/a Licence Holder: n/a Report author: Margaret McNamara and Orlagh Walsh Fieldwork: Orlagh Walsh Site activity: Site visit

Site name: Main Street, Durrow, Ballymoe, Co. Galway

Date of report: 2nd November 2021

Summary of results: An archaeological desk-based assessment of lands in Ballaghymurry and Durrow, Ballymoe, Co. Galway shows that the site housed a saw mill in the later 19th and 20th centuries. No evidence of above ground archaeological potential was observed. Given the former presence of a saw mill, the potential for archaeological survival is considered low and no further archaeological input is proposed.

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The primary records (written, drawn and photographic) are currently held at TVAS Ireland Ltd, Ahish, Ballinruan, Crusheen, Co. Clare.

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Main Steet, Durrow, Ballymoe, Co. Galway Desk-Based Archaeological Assessment Report

by Margaret McNamara and Orlagh Walsh

Report J21/49a

Introduction

This report documents the results of a desk-based archaeological assessment of a proposed development site at Ballaghymurry/Durrow, Ballymoe, Co. Galway (ITM 569480 771510) (Fig. 1). The assessment takes the form of documentary research and a site visit.

The following Government publications set out many of the procedures relating to archaeology and development.

Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (DAHGI 1999a)

Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation (DAHGI 1999b)

Review of Archaeological Assessment and Monitoring Procedures in Ireland (Lambrick and Doyle 2000)

Archaeology in the Planning Process (OPR/DHLGH 2021)

The planning background

Galway County Council propose to construct a housing development at Ballymoe, Co. Galway (Fig. 2). The final layout and design of the proposed development has yet to be finalised and no planning application has yet been submitted.

Permission was granted in 2005, 2010 and again in 2015 for the demolition of an existing building on the site and construction of eight townhouses (comprising four three-bed and four two-bed townhouses) including all ancillary site works and services (including connection to existing public sewers and watermain), with a gross floor space of 715.68m² (Planning Reference Nos. 04/5576, 10/656 and 157).

The current desktop assessment was commissioned to aid the planning process.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the townlands of Ballaghymurry, and Durrow, civil parishes of Kilcroan, and Drumatemple, Ballymoe barony, Co. Galway (ITM 569480 771510) (Figs 1 and 2). Note that due to townland boundary changes in the 19th century, the site changed from Ballaghymurry to Durrow.

The development site is a partially developed plot directly west of the R360, at the southern end of Ballymoe village, close to the Galway/Roscommon County border. The N60 runs just north of Ballynoe. The River Suck and a tributary, the Island River, curves around the northern end of the village.

The development site is sub-rectangular in plan with an area of approximately 0.18ha.

The site lies at approximately 60m above Ordnance Datum.

According to the Geological Survey of Ireland the underlying bedrock is dark, fine-grained limestone and shale of the Ballymore Limestone Formation. This bedrock is overlain by glacial till derived from Carboniferous sandstone and chert (www.gsi.ie).

Archaeological and historical background

Documentary and cartographic information was taken from several sources, the primary being the County Galway Library website (www.galway.ie/en/services/library).

Cartographic sources

The Down Survey, conducted under the command of William Petty in the 1650s, recorded almost all of Ireland in great detail. Some of the maps were unfortunately destroyed in the following centuries. No copies have been found to date of the 'Bealamo' or 'Ballemoe' barony map but the county map shows some detail of the area. A cluster of buildings annotated as 'Durrowe' is shown south of a bend in the River Suck. A bridge is shown spanning the river on the eastern side of the cluster. The placename 'Ballemury' (Ballaghymurry?) is shown directly west of Durrow. An area of scrub/bog is shown between the two townlands (http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps).

The First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map of at 6" to the mile (surveyed 1837, published 1840, Fig. 3) shows Ballaghymurry as a very sparsely populated rural townland. The Island River demarcates the northern boundary of the townland. The precursor of the R360 road runs through the townland from north-east to south-west. The north-west and north-east corners are shown as rough pasture. Three sub-circular features are shown north of the road (recorded today as GA002-001, GA002-002 and GA002-003). A weir (GA002-032) is shown in the north-east corner and further north again a flour mill (GA002-031). The proposal site location is shown within an irregular shaped field east of a bend in the road in the north-east corner of the townland. Three small buildings are shown south of the bend. A winding trackway is shown in the field on the opposite side of the road. Durrow is located east of Ballaghymurry along the border with County Roscommon. Durrow contains the village of Ballymoe along the R360 roadway. The river flows around the northern edge of the townland. Two bridges are shown spanning the river; New Bridge (GA002-013) and Ballymoe Bridge (GA002-026/RO034-024). Buildings within the village include a mill (GA002-029), kiln (GA002-030), mill bridge (GA002-028), police barrack (GA002-027), R.C. chapel (GA002-025), church (GA002-021, GA002-021001) and post office and a holy well (Tobermaor (?) - GA002-020). A school house (GA002-024) is shown south of the village and large house is shown east of the village. South of the large house is a sub-circular feature (GA002-023).

The OS map at 25" to the mile, dating to the late 19th century (surveyed 1890, published 1893, Fig. 4) shows changes to field boundaries in both townlands. The sub-circular features shown on the earlier map in Ballaghymurry are no longer evident and there is now a small sub-circular feature south of the R360 roadway annotated as Gravel Pit (Disused) (GA002-005). Within the village, the flour mill is now annotated as a disused corn and flour mill. The police barracks is no longer annotated and there is now a building annotated as The Lodge. A post office is now shown south of Roman Catholic Chapel (GA002-025) and a presbytery is annotated north of the church. Another post office is shown south of Church of Ireland Church (GA002-021). The holy well shown north of the church on the earlier map is no longer evident or annotated. A rectangular feature is shown south-east of the church (GA002-022). A new section of road has been constructed leading south from the bend in the R360 causing a slight realignment of the road adjacent to the proposed development site. In relation to the proposal site the surrounding field boundaries have been removed and a strip of land along the roadway has been planted with trees. The proposal site is now completely contained within the planted area. A rectangular building is shown in the south-west corner of the site below which is a short, west-northwest to east-south-east aligned track. Note that due to boundary changes, the location of the proposal site has been moved from Ballaghymurry to Durrow townland.

The following 6" edition, revised in 1929 (Fig. 5) shows more change. New Bridge is now annotated as *Castlereagh Bridge*. The house east of the village is now annotated as *Durrow House* (GA002-024). In relation to the proposal site, the tree cover appears to have been removed and the site has been subdivided. The northern half of the site contains a cluster of buildings annotated as *Saw Mill*. The southern part of the site contains the building (with alterations) seen on the earlier map (Fig. 5).

The most recent digital mapping (Fig. 2, www.osi.ie, www.geohive.ie) shows a relatively unaltered landscape. The village settlement has extended only slightly beyond its 19th century footprint. In relation to the proposal site, the saw mill buildings are no longer evident. The northern part of the site today contains a derelict terrace and building (now demolished), presumably remnants of the saw mill complex. The southern part of the site contains a telephone pole.

Documentary sources

Ballaghymurry, or in Irish *Bealach Uí Mhuirígh* (www.logainm.ie) or *Bealach Uí Mhuireadaigh* (http://places.galwaylibrary.ie/place/4987), is translated by the 1838 Ordnance Survey Field Name Books (OSFNB) as 'O'Murray's road or pass' (ibid). Durrow, in Irish *Darú* (www.logainm.ie), *Durra* or *Dur-magh* (http://places.galwaylibrary.ie/place/3172) is translated by the OSFNB as 'oak plain' (ibid).

The OSFNB for Galway provide the following description for the townland of Ballaghymurry.

The road to Ballymoe passes eastward through the centre of this townland from which others branches off N. and South. There is a portion of bog at the East boundary. Centre of river joins the W. boundary. The land is tillage and pasture (http://places.galwaylibrary.ie/place/4987)

Durrow is described as follows.

The town of Ballymoe is situated in the S. W. portion of this townland and centre of river Suck forms the principal part of the boundary of this townland. The land is tillage and pasture (http://places.galwaylibrary.ie/place/3172)

The Ordnance Survey Letters for Galway (1838) provide the following description for Kilcroan Parish.

This parish lying close to Ballymor is called in Irish Cill Chromain (a corruption of Cill Cruain. See Masters 1530), which seems to signify the church of St. Croman. The old church is not one of any great antiquity. It is about 54 feet long and 18 (20) feet broad. The west gable and a small part of the south wall containing an ugly window of no interest remain. There is no holy well, nor any tradition connected with St. Croman.

There is nothing else of any antiquarian interest in this small parish but the site of the Castle of Ballycastle in which the celebrated Nuala na meadogie, the mother of David Burke is said to have resided. It stood near the road a short distance (1/8; mile) to the west of the old church of Kilcronan (i.e. crone).

There is a well in the Bog, near the site of this castle called Tober-na-Slainte, fons salutis, but it is not said to have been blessed by any saint, though people frequent it for the cure of diseases (http://places.galwaylibrary.ie/letters/)

The Galway Letters provide the following description of that part of Drumtemple parish that lies within the county.

Only four townlands of this parish lie in this County on the west of the Suck. The remaining part is in the County of Roscommon and on the East of the same River. The site of the old church lies on a druim or hill on the County of Roscommon side, but no part of it remains. The name signifies Druim a' Teampuill, Dorsum temple, the hill of the church (http://places.galwaylibrary.ie/letters/)

Samuel Lewis also describes Kilcroan parish in A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland (1837).

Kilcroan, a parish, in the barony of Half-Ballymoe, county of Galway, and province of Connaught, 11 miles (N. W. by W.) from Roscommon, on the road from that place to Dunmore; containing 2329 inhabitants. This parish comprises 3875 statute acres, as applotted under the tithe act, exclusively of a large quantity of bog, and contains Glinsk, the seat of Sir John Burke, Bart. It is a vicarage, in the diocese of Elphin, forming part of the union of Donamon; the rectory is impropriate in Lord Ranelagh, and the tithes amount to £106.15., which is equally divided between the impropriator and the vicar. In the R.C. divisions it is the head of a union or district, called Glinsk and Kilcroan, including the parishes of Kilcroan, Ballynakill, Ardclare, and Oran, and containing chapels at Glinsk and Ballymoe. About 20 children are educated in a public, and about 50 in a private, school; there is also a Sunday school. Here are the ruins of an ancient church, and at Tubberroe are the remains of an abbey (Lewis 1837).

Drumatemple Civil Parish forms part of the Roman Catholic parish of Oran, described by Lewis as follows.

Oran, a parish, in the half-barony of Ballymoe, county of Roscommon, and province of Connaught, 5¼ miles (N.W.) from Roscommon, on the road to Castlerea, and on the river Suck; containing 1560 inhabitants. This place was anciently called Huaran-Hichlaback, and is of great antiquity. St. Patrick is said to have founded a church here, of which St. Cethecus was bishop; this prelate was interred here. The old cemetery, adjacent to the high road, is still a favourite place of burial, and the reputation of its sanctity attracts many pilgrims.

The parish comprises 4859 ¼ statute acres of good land, chiefly under tillage, there being neither waste nor bog: the soil rests on limestone, of which there are quarries. It is a prebend and rectory, in the diocese of Elphin, episcopally united from time immemorial to the vicarage of Drimtemple, and in the patronage of the Bishop; the rectory is impropriate in the Earl of Essex.

The tithes amount to £146, and the gross tithes of the union to £179.6.8. The church of the union is at Drimtemple; it was erected in 1815, at an expense of £554, a gift from the late Board of First Fruits.

In the R.C. divisions the parish forms part of the union or district of Glinsk and Kilcroan. There are still some ruins of the old church, and the remote antiquity of the place is proved by the fragment of an ancient round tower, now only 12 feet high, and 11 feet 3 inches in internal diameter, having walls 4 feet 6 inches thick, well built of two different kinds of limestone (ibid).

The Griffith Valuations of 1855 lists the immediate lessor of Ballaghymurry townland as John L Bagot. There are seven occupiers; James Kelly, Patrick Keane, Thomas Gannon, John L Bagot, John Furey, John Courtnay and Patrick Trears. The same lessor is listed for Durrow with thirteen occupiers; Peter Lee, Martin Ryan, James Kelly, Francis Hurley, Thomas Gannon, 'School-house', Michael Skiventon, John L Bagot, Patrick Keane, Richard Meehan, Thomas Connor, James Burke and Francis Hurley (www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation).

The 1901 census lists nineteen individuals in Ballaghymurry with the surnames King, Cuffe and Maloney. There is a mix of occupations; shepherd, farmer, shoemaker, housekeeper and monitress. A similar number are listed for 1911 with similar surnames including Cuffe, King and Maloney and the surname of Raftery. The occupations are now dominated by new farming (www.census.nationalarchives.ie). There are 24 individuals listed for Durrow in 1901. The surnames are Lee, Mannion, Kenny, Hayes and Mooney. Occupations include farmer, shepherd, baker and stone breaker labourer. The population of Durrow had decreased to seventeen by 1911 with surnames Lee, Kenny, Larkin, Smith and Mannion. Occupations listed include farmer, army pensioner, carpenter, shepherd and general labourer (ibid).

Sites and Monuments Record / Record of Monuments and Places

The proposed development site is located within an area of moderate archaeological potential. The closest Recorded Monument GA002-025 (church) is located approximately 200m north of the proposal site. There are 22 entries recorded on the County Galway Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) map and on the National Monuments Service website (www.archaeology.ie) within 1km of the proposed development site (Table 1; Fig. 5). All of these sites are also listed on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) or scheduled for inclusion in the next update.

RMP No	Townland	Description	ITM
GA002-002	Ballaghymurry	Enclosure	568653 771265
GA002-003	Ballaghymurry	Ringfort-rath	568528 771089
GA002-005	Ballaghymurry	Well	568986 771187
GA002-011	Cloonee	Enclosure	569248 772159
GA002-012	Cloonee	Enclosure	569208 772009
GA002-013	Durrow Cloonee	Bridge	569453 771898
GA002-020	Durrow	Well	569747 771899
GA002-021	Durrow	Church	569655 771846
GA002-021001	Durrow	Graveyard	569663 771841
GA002-022	Durrow	Earthwork	569680 771827
GA002-022001	Durrow	Bastioned fort	unknown
GA002-023	Durrow	Ringfort-rath	569862 771713
GA002-024	Durrow	House-18 th /19 th century	569879 771766
GA002-025	Durrow	Church	569537 771692
GA002-026	Durrow	Bridge	569800 771970
GA002-028	Durrow	Bridge	569452 771774
GA002-029	Durrow	Mill – corn	569451 771725
GA002-030	Durrow	Kiln – corn-drying	569470 771720
GA002-031	Durrow	Mill – corn	569396 771749
GA002-032	Durrow	Weir – regulating	569384 771727
GA002-033	Durrow	Building	569420 771777
GA002-034	Durrow	Town	569597 771828
RO034-023	Dundermot	Promontory fort – inland	569702 772371
RO034-025	Dundermot	Ringfort	570508 771654

Table 1: Recorded Monuments within 1km of site

The closest monument, GA002-025, is a Roman Catholic church of medieval or post-medieval date. There is now a 20th century church on the site (NIAH Reg. No. 30400206). Approximately 300m north-east is the centre of the historic settlement of Durrow, of possible medieval origin. A short distance east of the historic centre is the early 19th century Saint John's Church of Ireland church, graveyard and earthwork. The earthwork contains the 19th century burial vault of the Baggot family, local landowners. An interesting but unlocated site is associated with Durrow townland (GA002-022001 – Bastioned fort) and possibly the earthwork close to the graveyard. The following description is provided.

Kerrigan (1995, 98) records that 'At Ballymoe Bridge on the Galway border with Co. Roscommon another fort was under construction in 1656, which was so far advanced as likely to be completed in that year. It was known as Fort Fleetwood, named after Charles Fleetwood, the lord deputy of Ireland from 1654 to 1657, when he was replaced by Henry Cromwell. The first edition of the Ordnance Survey does not indicate the remains of this work; a report of 1662 notes a masonry fort of four bastions, no doubt similar to Bellahy [Co. Sligo, SL042-029], which cost £2,200 – the fort at Ballymoe cost £2,050, suggesting that it was about the same size. Alcock et. al. (1999, 239, No. 2927) suggest some association with the enigmatic earthwork SE of the C of I graveyard (see GA002-022); this does not seem likely and the location of this fort is unknown (www.archaeology.ie). North-east of the church is the site of a well, a possible holy well, annotated on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map. Holy wells may have their origins in prehistory and are associated with devotions from the medieval period onwards. A short distance north-east of the well is the site of the bridge spanning the River Suck marked on the 17th century Down Survey Map. The present bridge dates to the 20th century. South-east of the church is an early medieval ringfort and north of the ringfort is the 18th /19th century *Durrow House*.

Between 200 and 400m north-north-west and north of the proposal site is a cluster of industrial sites (medieval or post-medieval) including two mills and a corn drying kiln close to the Island River along with a weir and two river bridges (one 19th century). A post-medieval barracks is located approximately 300m north of the works. An early medieval ringfort is located approximately 1km to the south-west and undated enclosures are located between 500 and 600m north-north-west and approximately 800m to the south-west. Located 500m to the south-west is an undated well. Approximately 900m north-north-east of the proposed works at a bend in the River Suck is a possible Iron Age inland promontory fort.

The Excavations database and previous archaeological investigations

The results of archaeological investigations in Ireland are published in summary form in *Excavations* (Bennett 1987-2010) and in an online database (www.excavations.ie). A search of the database was made for the townlands of Ballaghymurry and Durrow, Ballymoe village and the surrounding townlands of Corliskea, Cloonadarragh, Cloonadarragh East, Dundermot, Leabeg, Cloonruff, Cornamucklagh, Knockogonnell, Lisnageeragh, Gilkagh West and Gilkagh East. No entries are recorded for any of these places.

Architectural heritage

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage of Ireland (NIAHI) describes structures of architectural heritage value across Ireland (www.buildingsofireland.ie). Buildings gain protection by being listed on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) within development plans for any given planning authority (https://opendata-galwaycoco.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/). There are six NIAH sites located within 1km of the scheme.

Reg. No	Townland	Name / description	
30400202	Durrow	Castlereagh Bridge, Durrow	
30400203	Durrow	Former Garda Station/constabulary barracks	
30400205	Durrow	Saint John's Church, Durrow	
30400205	Durrow	Bagot Tomb	
30400206	Durrow	Croan Parish Church, Durrow	
31934003	Dundermot	Dundermot House, Dundermot	

Table 2: The NIAH sites in vicinity of the scheme

Croan Parish Church is the closest monument to the proposal site and dates to 1935. The bridge spanning the Island River dates to c. 1820. Saint John's Church dates to the early 19th century. The Bagot Tomb in the graveyard dates to the mid-19th century. The barracks building dates to the late 19th century. This building was formerly a house and is renowned as the birthplace of Éamonn Ceannt, signatory of the Declaration of the Irish Republic in 1916. Dundermot House to the north-east in Dundermot dates to the mid-18th century.

Aerial photographs

Aerial photography dating to the late 20th century /early 21st century (1995-2005) shows significant building on the site, presumably the remnants of the saw mill (www.geohive.ie). Later aerial mapping suggests that the saw mill buildings were levelled sometime between 2005 and 2013.

National Museum of Ireland Topographic files

Information on artefact finds has been recorded by the National Museum of Ireland since the late 18th century and the museum files were examined as part of this research. No entries are listed for Ballaghymurry or Durrow townland.

Archaeological and Historical Background – Discussion

The proposed development site is in an area of moderately high archaeological potential. Historical mapping suggests there was a settlement as Ballymoe and a bridge spanning the River Suck as far back as the 17th century. The closest monuments to the proposal site are medieval or post-medieval in date. The 19th century barracks, a former house, is home to an important historic figure and signatory of the 1916 Proclamation. The location of a probable Iron Age fort along the river is interesting as is the account of the unlocated 17th century bastioned fort associated with Durrow.

Site visit (Plates 1-6)

The site at Ballymoe was visited by archaeologist Orlagh Walsh on the 1st of November 2021. The proposal site is level and is sub-rectangular in plan with an area of 1,835 m². The site is bounded to the north, east and south by concrete walls and to the west by a wooden fence with a large lay-by in front of it. The lay-by is part of the main street into Ballymoe to the north and connects the footpath from the village to the Suck Valley Walk route to the south. There are houses to the north and south of the site and directly across the road is the Father Flanagan memorial centre. At the north and south there are telephone wires, with a post in the field itself in the south-east corner.

The field is very overgrown with vegetation, mostly along the eastern wall with the largest amount of brambles being in the north-east corner of the site. At the time of the visit, the ground was covered with moss and was very wet. There are some small trees approximately in the centre of the field and in the north-west corner there are, what look like, three newly planted trees. There is no gate into the field but there once was as the current wooden fence has been added to and there are metal fittings for a gate still in the ground.

There was no above ground evidence to indicate any archaeological monument. The field has evidence of underground services with two wooden stakes present on the surface, possibly aligned in a north-east to south-west direction and a north-west to south-east direction. The historic mapping shows evidence of a 19th century saw mill at the site location which would indicate that the ground would have been heavily disturbed and it is therefore unlikely that any earlier archaeological material will have survived.

Archaeological Impact Statement

In accordance with Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation (DAHGI 1999b), an archaeological impact statement is to be made. The impact statement should describe the following:

...possible direct or indirect effects of the proposed development on archaeological deposits, features or objects. The archaeological impact statement must be based on the results of the overall archaeological assessment as well as the results of the test excavation. (DAHGI 1999b, 21)

Research into the archaeological and historical background demonstrated that the proposed development site is located within an area of moderately high archaeological potential with potential prehistoric and medieval monuments in the locality.

There was no above ground evidence on the site to suggest any archaeological features. Cartographic evidence shows that the proposal site was the location of a saw mill with a high density of buildings from at least the late 19th century onwards. These structures were demolished in the 20th and 21st centuries. Given the intensive industrial use of the site in the last century it is unlikely that any potential below-ground archaeological material on the site will have survived.

It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required at the proposal site.

The opinions given in this archaeological assessment report are made subject to approval by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Margaret McNamara and Orlagh Walsh TVAS Ireland Ltd November 2021

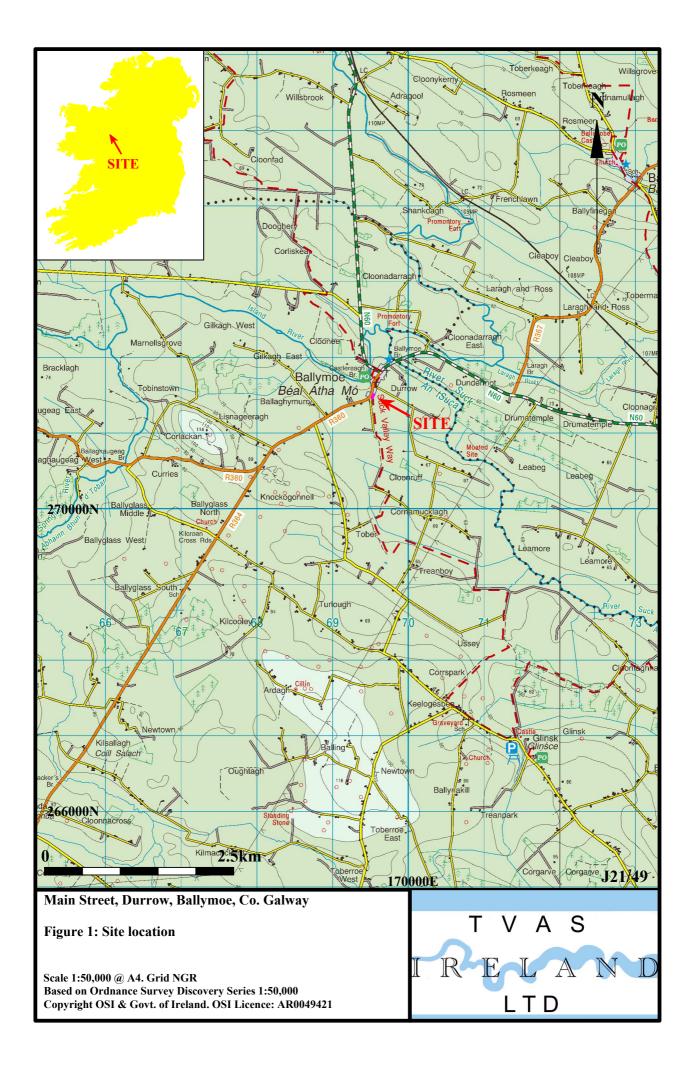
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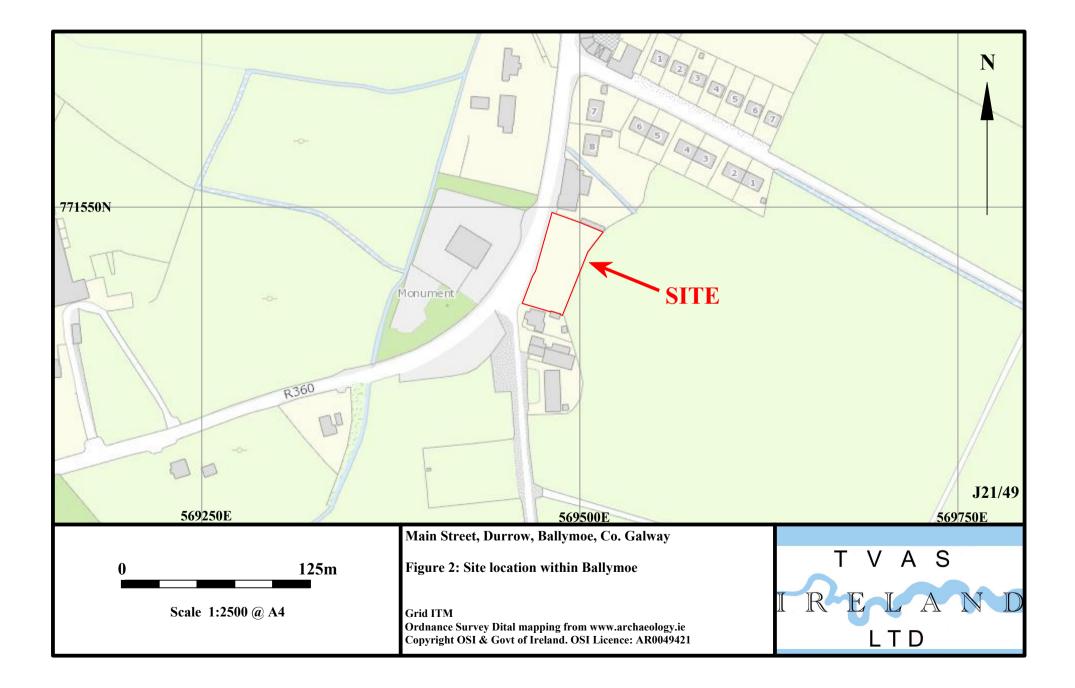
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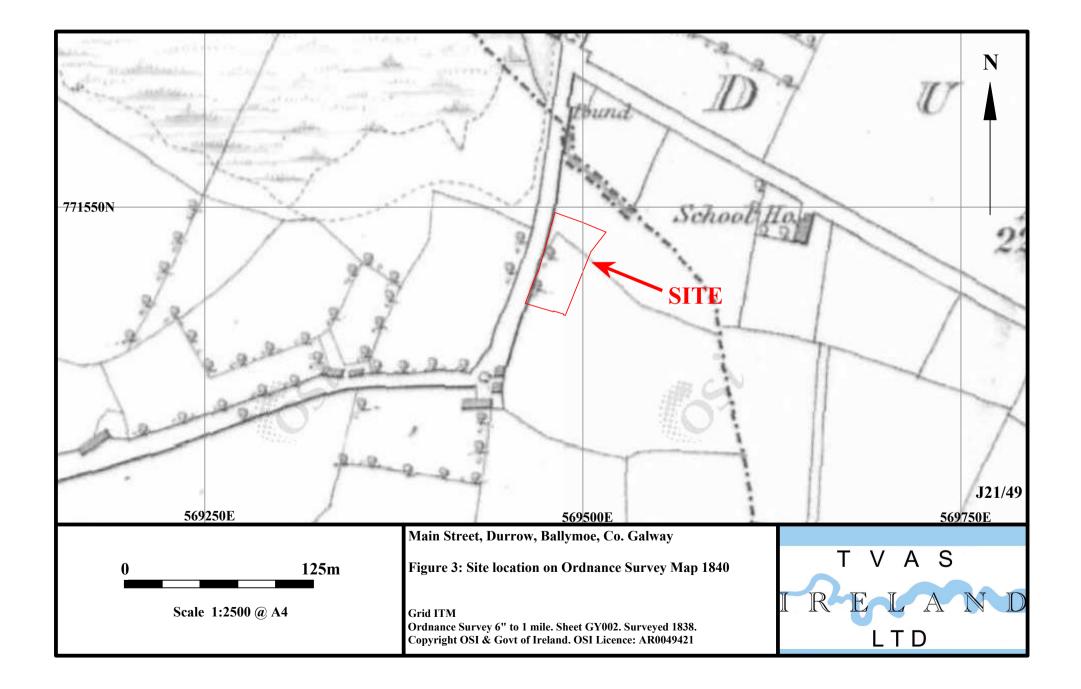
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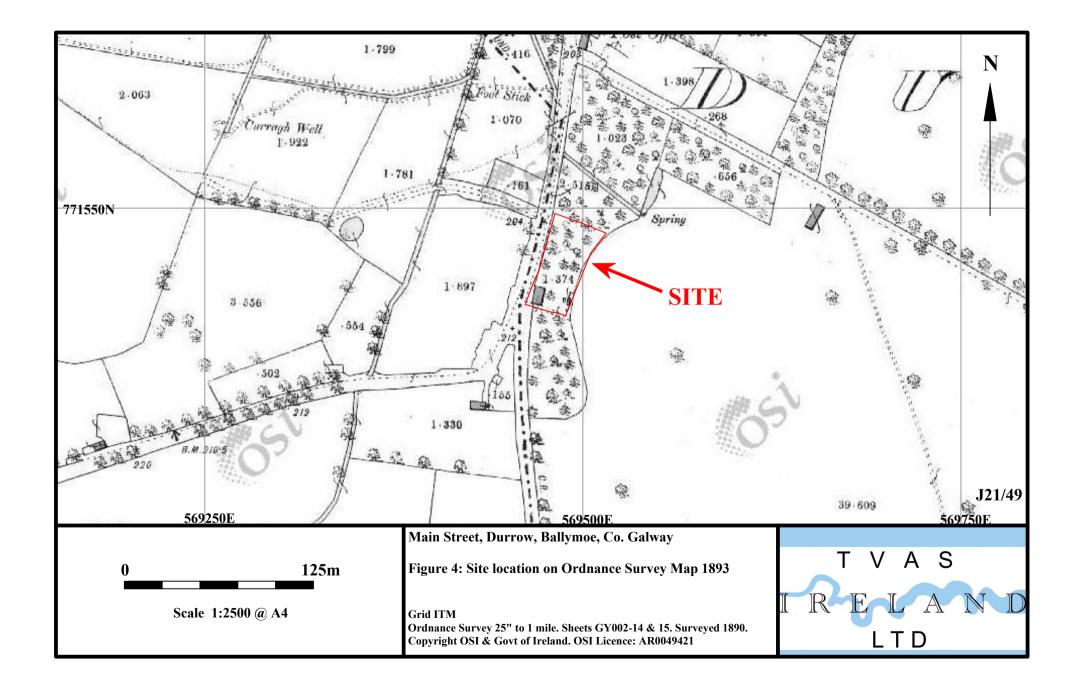
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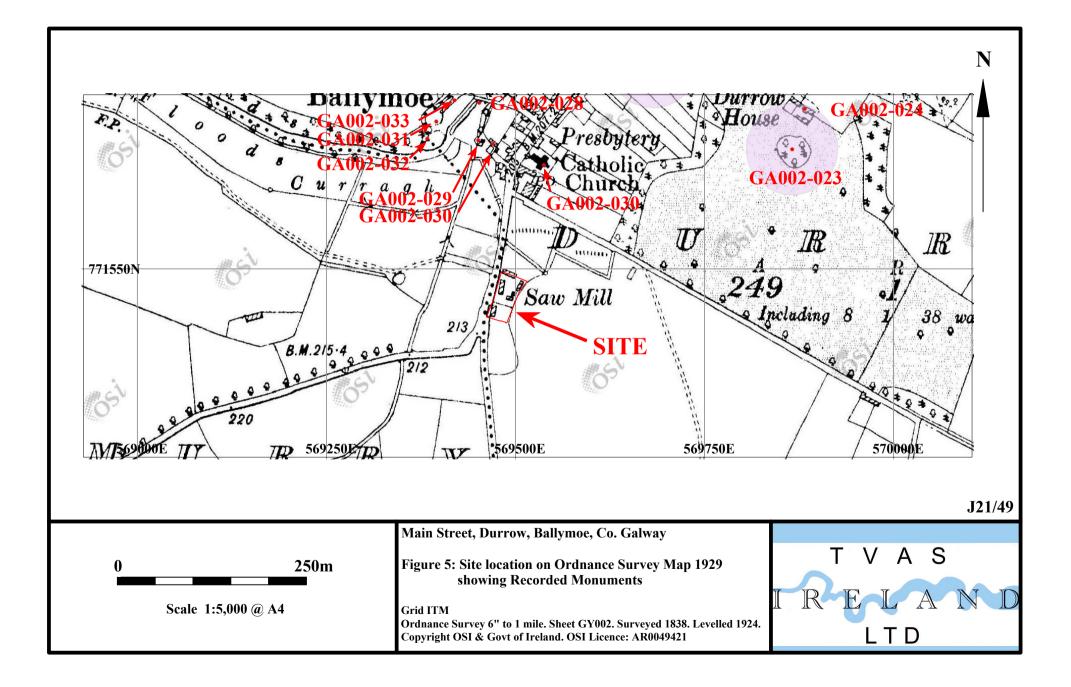




Plate 1: The site. Looking north-east.



Plate 2: The site. Looking south-east.



Plate 3: The site. Looking south.



Plate 4: The site. Looking north.



Plate 5: Dense vegetation in the north-east corner of the site. Looking north-east.



Plate 6: The site showing where the original gate once was. Looking north-east.

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Main Street, Durrow, Ballymoe, Co. Galway Plates 1-6





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