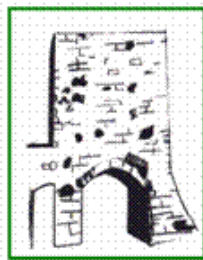


**ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED MULTI-USE
COMMUNITY BUILDING
AT BURKES LANE,
ATHENRY, COUNTY GALWAY.**

PART 8-PLANNING APPLICATION



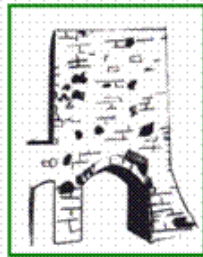
Through Time Ltd.

***Professional Archaeological Services
Old church Street, Athenry, Co. Galway
www.throughtimeltd.com***

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED MULTI-USE
COMMUNITY BUILDING
AT BURKE LANE,
ATHENRY, COUNTY GALWAY.**

Martin Fitzpatrick, M.A.

February 2023



Through Time Ltd.

Professional Archaeological Services

Old church Street, Athenry, Co. Galway

www.throughtimeltd.com

**COPIES OF THIS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT
HAVE BEEN PRESENTED TO:**

Client: Galway County Council.

Statutory Bodies: National Monuments Service,
Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
The National Museum of Ireland.
Galway County Council.

PLEASE NOTE...

Any recommendations contained in this report are subject to the ratification of the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

COPYRIGHT NOTE

Please note that the entirety of this report, including any original drawings and photographs, remain the property of **THROUGH TIME LTD.** Any reproduction of the said report thus requires the written permission of **THROUGH TIME LTD.**

Disclaimer

The results, conclusions and recommendations contained within this report are based on information available at the time of its preparation. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that all relevant data has been collated, the authors and Through Time Ltd. accept no responsibility for omissions and/or inconsistencies that may result from information becoming available subsequent to the report's completion.

This report outlines the findings of an Archaeological Impact Assessment of the works associated with the upgrading of an existing building at Burke's Lane, Athenry County Galway to facilitate its use as a community building.

The proposed works, for which part 8 planning is sought, is concentrated along Burke Lane in the Medieval town of Athenry (RMP GA084-001----)

The assessment aims to identify the likely significant effects on archaeology, architectural heritage, history and folklore and is based on a desk-based assessment and site inspections. Conclusions and recommendations in relation to individual cultural heritage assets are included.

No significant adverse impacts are predicted to archaeology, and no upstanding recorded monuments will be impacted.

The development will see a change of use for the existing building that has been unoccupied for the past number of years. Previous to that the building was used as a café and prior to that as a retail premises with living accommodation above. The building is located within the designated Architectural Conservation Area of Athenry town.

No significant impacts are predicted on history or folklore as a result of the proposed works.

CONTENTS

I.	List of figures and Plates	7
II.	Abbreviations Acronyms and Definitions	8
	Introduction	9
	Project Background.....	9
	Site Location	9
	Proposed Works.....	9
	Purpose and Scope of the Assessment.....	9
	Methodology	10
	Desk Study.....	11
	Site Inspection.....	11
	Archaeological Heritage.....	11
	County Development Plan.....	12
	Local Development Plan.....	12
	Archaeological and Historical Background	15
	Receiving Environment	20
	Recorded Archaeological Features.....	20
	Potential Archaeological Remains.....	28
	Previous archaeological investigations.....	29
	Cartographic Analysis.....	31
	Architectural Heritage.....	34
	Site Visit	37
	Potential Impacts of the proposed development	44
	Archaeology.....	44
	Architectural Heritage.....	45
	Cultural Heritage.....	45
	Conclusions & Recommendation	45
	References	47
	Appendix 1	

I. LIST OF FIGURES AND PLATES

FIGURES

Fig. 1: Site Location within Athenry Town.

Fig. 2: Location of Recorded Archaeological Features in relation to the site with surrounding town walls indicated.

Fig. 3: Recorded Archaeological Features and Zone of Notification (shaded) in area of development.

Fig. 4: 'Plat of Athenry' 1583, J. Browne (PRO SP63/104/34)

Fig. 5: Extract from 1st edition O.S. Map (After OSI).

Fig. 6: Extract from Cassini ed. of O.S. Map (After OSI).

Fig. 7: Recorded Protected Structures and structures recorded in NIAH located in vicinity of the site.

Fig. 8: Existing elevation facing onto Burke Lane.

Fig. 9: Proposed ground floor level.

Fig. 10: Elevation indicating stairway leading from ground level to first floor.

Fig. 11: Proposed first floor.

PLATES

Plate 1: View of building from S of Northgate Street.

Plate 2: View of building from N side of Northgate Street.

Plates 3 & 4: Ground floor main room from E and W.

Plate 5: Former kitchen/food preparation area. Taken from S.

Plate 6: Hallway from N.

Plates 7 & 8: Modern stairs and window on landing at first floor level.

Plate 9: View of main room at first floor level. Taken from the W

Plates 10 & 11: View from window in N wall and hallway at first floor level.

Plate 12: Room at W end of building at first floor level.

II ABBREVIATIONS ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

GA - This number is the number of the site on the SMR/RMP map. It begins with the county code, here GA for Galway, the 6-inch sheet number, followed by the number of the archaeological site.

M Meters, all dimensions are given in meters or part of a meter.

NIAH National Inventory of Architectural Heritage^{[[SEP]]}

NMI National Museum of Ireland^{[[SEP]]}

NMS National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

OS Ordnance Survey^{[[SEP]]}

OSI Ordnance Survey of Ireland^{[[SEP]]}RMP

RMP Record of Monuments and Places. A record on which all known archaeological sites are marked and listed in an accompanying inventory. This resource is based on all publicly available material and cartographic sources and is read in conjunction with constraint maps. The RMP records known recorded monuments and the sites of such monuments (if the monument no longer survives).

RPS Record of Protected Structures^{[[SEP]]}

SMR Sites and Monuments Record

INTRODUCTION

Project Background

Through Time Ltd. was engaged Galway County Council to undertake an Archaeological Impact Assessment of a proposed change of use for a building in Burke Lane, Athenry, County Galway.

Site Location

The development is located within the medieval town of Athenry.

Proposed Works

The proposed works includes changes to the layout of the existing two storey structure to facilitate its use as a community building allowing for multi purpose use.

The development is located within an existing two storey structure facing onto Burke's Lane and North Gate Street in Athenry town and within the Architectural Conservation Area of the town. The proposed works will improve and enhance the existing historic streetscape within the ACA by the insertion of appropriate doorws and wooden sash windows and ensuring the health of the building into the future.

Purpose and Scope of this Assessment

The purpose of this assessment is to identify likely significant effects on cultural heritage (archaeology, architectural heritage and/or folklore and history) as a result of the proposed works, and to determine whether further investigations or other measures would be required to mitigate any likely adverse effects.



Fig. 1: Site location within Athenry town.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology used in the preparation of this assessment is based on guidance provided in the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)'s Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA 2017). It is also consistent with other guidance including the National Roads Authority's (NRA, now TII) Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impacts on National Road Schemes (NRA 2005a) and Guidelines for the Assessment of Architectural Heritage Impacts on National Road Schemes (NRA 2005b) in relation to route selection.

The study was divided into three main components:

1. Desk-based assessment, including gathering and analysing baseline data;



2. A site inspection of the proposed work areas in relation to known cultural

heritage assets and any previously unidentified assets that may be affected; and [SEP]

3. Report writing. [SEP]

Desk Study

The desk-based assessment involved examination of the following databases and available documentary sources:

Archaeology

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) – the statutory list of protected places and monuments, with accompanying constraints maps, published for County Galway; [SEP]

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) – the archive of current information on sites and monuments, including whether or not sites are to be included on the next RMP revision; available online at

<http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment>; [SEP]

Lists of National Monuments in State Care: Ownership and Guardianship, published for County Galway; [SEP]

The list of Preservation Orders held by the National Monuments Service (published 2010); [SEP]

Excavations Bulletins (www.excavations.ie); [SEP]

Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland; [SEP]

Cartographic sources, including the first-edition six-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map, the 25-inch OS map along with other available maps; [SEP]

Historical photographs viewed online via the National Library of Ireland website (<http://www.nli.ie/digital-photographs.aspx>); and Aerial photography (Google Earth, and Digital Globe via the Historic Environment Viewer).

Architectural Heritage

Galway County Development Plan and accompanying Record of Protected Structures (RPS); and [SEP]

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH). [SEP] History and Folklore [SEP]

Galway County Development Plan

A primary objective of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 (CDP) is the proper planning and sustainable development of County Galway over the period 2022-2028 and beyond. The development plan sets out the overall vision, with strategies, policies and objectives for the county as a whole. The proposal is in compliance with the CDP strategy to ensure that the physical environment and streetscape is enhanced, that streets are designed and well-lit and therefore encourage pedestrian activity, and that the streetscape should be characterised by a high standard of street furniture.

In accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the planning authority is required to prepare a Local Area Plan (LAP) for towns with a population of more than 5,000 persons. The current Athenry Local Area Plan 2012 to 2022 will be updated by a new LAP in 2023.

Local Area Plan

The Athenry Local Area Plan 2012-2022 (LAP) and upcoming 2023-2029 plan have been prepared in accordance with the requirements and provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The Local Area Plan sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Athenry in the context of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 (CDP) and the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs). It is informed by Ministerial Guidelines issued pursuant to Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, together with EU requirements regarding Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA).

In order to preserve areas of architectural value, the Athenry Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) has been designated which includes Burkes Lane and North Gate Street.

This proposal seeks to comply with a key priority of the LAP in, *“Protecting the natural assets, environment, built heritage and public realm of the town including*

Athenry's unique medieval walled town character and amenity for the benefit of future generations to come."

This proposal also seeks to comply with the objectives as set out in the LAP 2012-2022 particularly the following:

Objective HC3 - Architectural Conservation Area

Protect, conserve and enhance the essential character of the Architectural Conservation Area, through the appropriate management and control of the design, location and layout of new development, alterations or extensions to existing structures, and/or modifications to the setting of the structure and the character of the Architectural Conservation Area.

Objective HC4 - Development/Works relating to Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Area

Ensure that any development, modifications, alterations, or extensions materially affecting the character a Protected Structure, or a structure adjoining a Protected Structure or 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 the ACA.

This will include the following:

- a. Works materially affecting the character of a Protected Structure or the exterior of a building/structure within an ACA will require planning permission.
- b. Any works/development 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.

Prohibit development proposals, either in whole or in part, for the demolition of Protected Structures or structures within an Architectural Conservation Area, which contribute to the special character of the area, save in exceptional circumstances.

Site Inspection 

A site inspection was carried out in February 2023. The purpose of the inspection was to undertake a visual examination of the proposed works and to assess the potential effects on known and unknown archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage assets.

Impact Assessment ^[SEP]

The likely impact on cultural heritage was assessed and described with reference to the EPA's Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA 2017) and the NRA guidelines referred to above. ^[SEP]The significance of impact on sites and structures is determined through an analysis of the perceived importance of a cultural heritage asset and the degree of predicted impact. The importance or significance of an asset is determined by a combination of objective attributes (e.g., legal status/designation, archaeological potential, condition/preservation, documentary or historical references) and subjective (e.g. social) concerns including local significance, sentiment, amenity value, contribution to sense of place etc. Any archaeological site listed on the RMP or any Protected Structure was assigned a significance rating of High given that, in the case of an archaeological site it has been afforded statutory protection under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994, while in the case of a Protected Structure the asset has been established to be of special interest under one or more of the following categories: Architectural; Historical; Archaeological; Artistic; Cultural; Scientific; Technical; Social. Non-designated assets were rated based on the other criteria outlined above.

Having established the importance or significance of a feature, the significance of effects of the proposals upon them were then considered using the matrix provided in the EPA's EIA guidelines (EPA 2017). This compares the character/magnitude of the predicted impact with the sensitivity of the receiving environment. Significance of effect is taken to mean the importance of the outcome for cultural heritage (i.e. the consequences of the change).

It should be noted that while guidelines such as these help ensure a standardised, consistent approach to impact assessment, the EPA recognises that

professional judgement plays a role in the determination of significance and that different assessors may place different emphases on the factors involved.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

One of the best-preserved medieval towns of Anglo-Norman origin in Ireland, Athenry retains over seventy percent of its medieval town wall as well as remnants of an extramural fosse and banks. A restored castle, a ruined priory and parish church lie within the town walls. The foundation of the town was influenced by its location at the fording point across the Clareen River. The name *Baile Áth na Rí*, means either 'the town of the King's ford' (Bradley and Dunne 1990, 9; O'Donovan 1838, 169) or the 'town of the river's ford' (Rynne 1995, 117). While no trace of the fording point survives today and no references to a ford are marked on any edition of the O.S. maps, it must nonetheless have been of some significance to the foundation and indeed before the foundation of the town. The name implies the importance of the town's location by a river ford however in addition the town lies along an E-W ridge of gravel known as the Esker Riada, which provided an important land route from Galway to the midlands and the east of the country.

Soon after the conquest of Connacht, the chronicles reveal that Anglo-Norman barons began erecting castles therein (A.Clon). It is to this period that works commenced on the castle and associated settlement in Athenry. Meiler de Bermingham is recognised as the founder of the town and also associated with the foundation of the Dominican priory of Saints Peter and Paul around 1241 (Coleman 1912, 204; 7.6 v). No foundation dates for the castle or parish church survive but they, along with the priory and town, were clearly established by 1244 when a charter of Henry III granted permission for a weekly market and annual fair to be held at Athenry (CDI; COD). There are references to the town being attacked by native Irish in the mid 13th century and in the early 14th century a mention of the parish church in the ecclesiastical taxation of 1306 (Walton 1980, 442) where it was valued at 40 marks per annum (Bradley and Dunne 1990, 25). In 1310, the a murage charter was granted to the town lasting for three years (CPI; Hardiman 1846, 266-7) and it is to this period that the

masonry town wall is generally dated. It is likely that prior to this the town was surrounded by a defence of timber or earth. The town was attacked in 1316 by Irish forces led by Felim O'Connor, king of Connacht, amongst other notable Gaelic lords (AC. 1316). The 'Battle of Athenry', saw some 28 candidates for the succession of the kingship of Uí Maine slain, including Felim O'Connor, king of Connacht, and Tadhg O'Kelly (AC; A.Clon). There is little mention made of the town after the 'Battle of Athenry'. By the mid sixteenth century successive attacks on the town by the sons of the Earl of Clanricard in the late 1570s and by Red Hugh O'Donnell in 1596, led to its demise. It briefly recovered when the Dominican Priory was received as a University in 1644, however Cromwell's incursions in 1652 sealed its fate. Today Athenry town retains many of its medieval features with a castle, abbey, parish church, market cross, enclosing walls and one surviving gateway with the foundations of a second recently uncovered. The burgage plot pattern of medieval Athenry survives well on the west side of Chapel Street, but no domestic residence of pre-1700 date survives within the town (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 16).

Castle (AR1)

Overlooking the site of the ford in the NE of the town is a rectangular masonry hall-keep within an enclosure delimited by a curtain wall. It is annotated on all editions of the O.S. maps as 'Castle or King John's Court' and known locally as King John's castle however it was constructed some time after his death in 1216. The exact foundation date is unknown however historical and architectural evidence suggests an early-to-mid thirteenth-century foundation. It appears likely that the structure is constructed on an artificial ridge that possibly marks the site of a pre-Anglo-Norman Gaelic dún (Knox 1920, 2). A fosse would have originally surrounded the enclosure (at least partially), fed by the river. The roughly D-shaped bawn wall, while defending the keep, also serves as the north-eastern section of the town wall. It encloses a rectangular keep (17.5m by 13m ext.) with a prominent base-batter. The keep was restored in the 1990s and the current building contains four storeys with a first-floor doorway reached by a timber staircase. Rynne has suggested a three-phase construction sequence (Papazian 1991, 2). The original castle was two storeys high and consisted of the

ground floor and a first-floor hall. It was accessed by a decorated pointed arch doorway at 1st-floor level, reached by a flight of external steps/stairs or a forebuilding. The hall was lit by four tall windows, each centrally located in a deeply splayed embrasure, one in each wall. Access to the ground floor was gained from this level by means of an internal wooden stairs or a ladder in the W corner. Drainage holes visible in the gable walls at 1st-floor level indicate the level of the original roof. The walls and roof were subsequently raised c. 1250. During this phase a gallery was added to the SW end of the building. Clear evidence for this includes the remains of a masonry arch in the SW wall near the doorway and three beam holes opposite it in the NW wall. The merlons of the crenellated parapet are pierced with long cruciform arrow loops and beam holes visible below it indicate that the castle was further defended by a hoard. Further alterations occurred in the 15th century when the high gable ends were added, the ground floor was vaulted and the ground-floor doorway was inserted. During this period the parapets were incorporated into the gable walls. The vault inserted into the ground floor was supported on the NW and SE side-walls and three pillars along the centre of the floor. Traces of the wickerwork-centring are still visible on its underside. Following restoration works carried out by the Office of Public Works in the 1990s wooden floors were added to the second floor, which is now an audio-visual theatre, and the attic.

Street Pattern

The current north-south access through the town incorporates Old Church Street and North Gate Street however the medieval street plan included a second north-south route from Spittle Gate to the Market place that incorporated Cross Street. Only the Cross Street element of this roadway survives today. Chapel Lane - Davis Street - Bridge Street all provided E-W thoroughfares from *Brittin Gate* in the east to *Nicolas Gate* in the west. The presence of a number of cross streets such as Clark's Street, St Donald's Lane and Barrack Lane, preserve the remnants of what would seem to have been a thirteenth-century chequer street plan. It is likely that the river originally formed the eastern boundary of the town and that the Dominican friary was established outside it, but enclosed later (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 14).

Market Place & Market Cross (AR3)

A triangular marketplace located at the junction of Cross St, Davis Street and Bridge Street stands at the heart of Athenry's urban street plan. In 1244 Meiler de Bermingham was granted a weekly market at Athenry (CDI. 1171-1251, 398). The market area is quite small today, but it has been argued that the original marketplace occupied the whole of the area marking the intersection between Bridge Street, North Gate Street and Old Church Street and was bounded by the church graveyard to the north (Bradley and Dunne 1990, 15). Standing within the marketplace is an impressive late medieval Gothic style cross of Tabernacle or Lantern type. These crosses are frequently found in Britain (particularly in the South West of England and Wales) Northern France, Germany and elsewhere in Gothic Europe and typically date to the late 15th century. In Ireland the cross in Athenry is the only known example. Tabernacle or Lantern crosses derive their name from the fact that instead of a transom as a cross-head they have a rectangular swelling typically depicting a crucifixion scene in heavy relief. Almost invariably (as is the case in Athenry) such crosses have a long, tapering generally plain but chamfered shaft set into a sculpted socket which is on top of a large and often quite high stepped pyramidal base. Both sides of the cross are decorated and the recesses are surmounted by crocketed and pinnacled arched two over the front recess and one over each of the others. The front recess contains a carved cruciform scene, with Our Lady and St. John standing on either side of the cross. The back recess contains a carving of the Madonna and Child, while the two side-recesses are flat and plain. There are also a number of doglike animals on the sloping section immediately below the tabernacle section. The purpose of the market cross was two-fold, to serve as a focal point and as a place where bargains were struck. It is likely that the tabernacle or lantern cross replaced an earlier medieval market cross. In 1629 permission to hold a regular market in the town, and a fair in October, was granted to Sir William Parsons, whose name is still applied to the fair green located to the southwest of the town.

Parish Church (AR2)

Immediately N of the Market Square is St Mary's Parish church. The building is believed to date from about 1289. It became a collegiate church sometime before 1485/1485 when John De Burgo founded a college for a warden and eight priests. In 1489 Pope Innocent VIII (1484-1492) issued instructions that the church return to its former state, due to the fact that De Burgo had been excommunicated from the church for various misdeed including the burning of Abbeyknockmoy Monastery some 10km to the N of Athenry in 1483. The Pope's instructions were ignored, however in 1576 the college was suppressed and the following year both the college and the church were burned by the sons of the Earl of Clanricarde who sacked the town in that year. A Protestant church was erected on the site of St Mary's chancel or choir in about 1828 and remained in use there until the middle of the 20th century. Portions of the Medieval nave and transepts still survive at the site and two nave columns are currently used as gateposts which lead onto the market square. The site is currently occupied by the Athenry Heritage Centre.

Priory (AR4)

The priory in Athenry was started in 1241 and finished in 1261. It underwent considerable destructions, burnings and restorations during its long history, the various phases of which are apparent in the different architectural styles visible in the present building. The priory was burned to the ground in 1423 and was largely rebuilt under a Bull of Pope Martin V in 1427. Another Bull was issued by Pope Eugene IV in 1445. There were a number of alterations made to the building at this time the major change being the construction of a central tower, which necessitated strengthening the aisles columns and reducing the arches. Under the tower a roodscreen was erected. The priory was finally granted by Queen Elizabeth to the portreeve and Corporation of Athenry at a yearly rate of 26s. 4d. In 1627 Charles I granted the priory to four Galway merchants to hold it for the King. The merchants were well disposed towards the friars and the Dominicans re-established themselves there in 1638. The priory survived its dissolution for many years and was made a university in 1644. In 1652 Cromwellian soldiers wrecked the building. In the mid eighteenth century the cloister building was destroyed and a barracks built there. The soldiers moved

to another barracks in Cross St. in c. 1850 and shortly afterwards the barracks was demolished and the houses of Abbey Row erected.

Town Walls (AR5)

Although Athenry has one of the best preserved stretches of Medieval town wall in Ireland there is very little documentation regarding the wall. The initial settlement was probably surrounded by earth and timber defences but in the early fourteenth century a masonry curtain was constructed that also enclosed the river and the priory. There is a reference to murage being granted for three years by Edward II in 1310 and a tradition that the walls were completed with the profits from the spoils of the Battle of Athenry in 1316. However, this may simply refer to the walls being re-built in stone to replace the earlier wooden. Much of the surviving wall probably dates to the 14th century. By the 14th century Athenry was surrounded by a curtain wall and an 8m wide fosse. The walls enclosed an area of c. 28 hectares and indicated a town of high status. Originally there were five gates giving access to the medieval town however only the North Gate and a portion of Loro Gate survives today. This North Gate style suggests a date in the 15th century, however the presence of a portcullis indicates that it may be earlier. Much of the present structure is restoration work with the upper eastern half of the gatehouse restored in the 1977. The ground floor of the structure consists of a plain vaulted chamber. A portcullis groove and murder hole are visible at this level. The gatehouse was entered at first floor level from the wall walk on the W side.

RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

Archaeology

Recorded Archaeological Remains

The proposed works fall inside the Zone of Notification for the historic town of Athenry (RMP GA084-001----). A number of monuments (Recorded and National are located adjacent to the proposed works and details of these are included in the chapter above and with entries from the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (where available) included below.

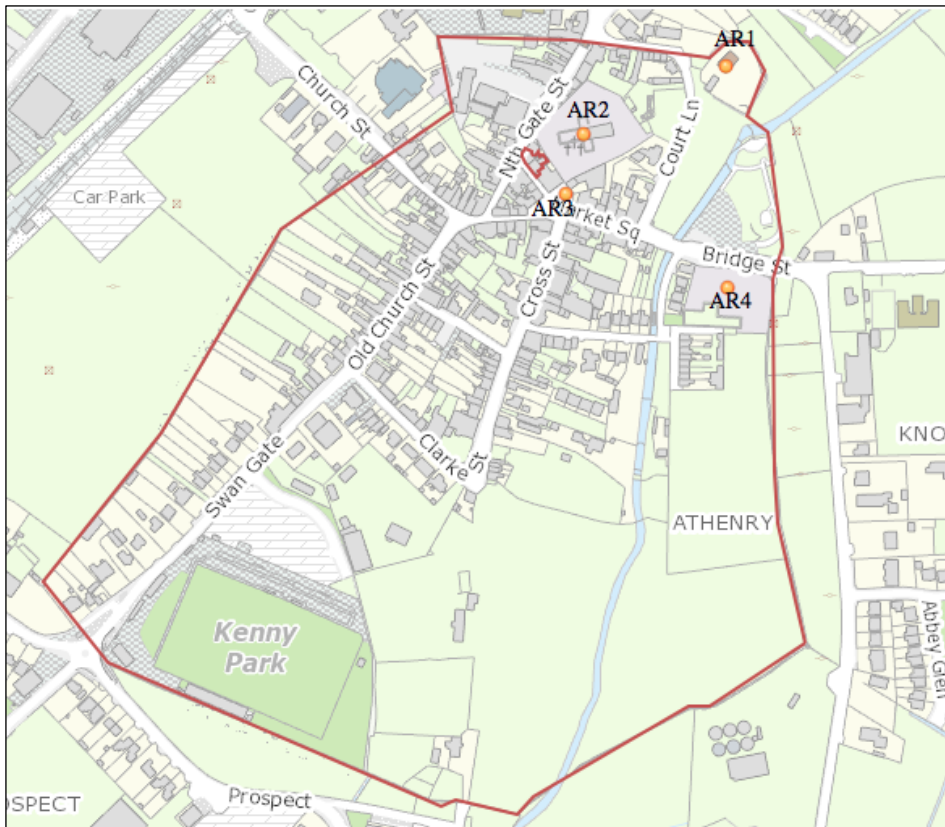


Fig. 2: Location of Recorded Archaeological Features in relation to the site with surrounding town walls indicated.

AR1 GA084-001006- National Monument 406

Castle

This castle, a conserved National Monument, is situated in the NE end of the Anglo-Norman town of Athenry (GA084-001----). It was built by Meiler de Bermingham between 1235 and 1240 and it occupies a slight rise that controlled a ford over the River Claren (Bradley and Dunne 1992, 22-3). Rectangular in plan (int. dims. 13.1m NE-SW; 7.25m NW-SE; wall T c. 1.7m) and of random-rubble construction with dressed quoin stones, it is three storeys high with a gabled attic; it has a pronounced base-batter (H 2.1m; base Wth 1.2m). It occupies the W half of the surrounding D-shaped bawn (GA084-001085-), some of the walls of which act as part of the town defences (GA084-001001-). The late Professor Rynne has suggested a three-phase construction sequence (Papazian 1991, 2). The original castle was two storeys high and consisted of the ground

floor and a first-floor hall. It was accessed by a decorated pointed arch doorway (Wth 1.3m; H 2.6m) at 1st-floor level. The doorway was reached by a flight of external steps/stairs or a forebuilding as indicated by the two beam slots in the external wall-face to its left and the projecting slabs above it. The hall was lit by four tall windows, each centrally located in a deeply splayed embrasure, one in each wall. Decorated capitals on top of the columns of the doorway and the embrasures in the SE and SW walls indicate that this chamber was intended to be displayed to the public (Sweetman 1999, 70). The original floor was wooden. A garderobe chamber in the N corner, which projects from the external wall-face, is lit by two narrow slit windows. Its external cesspit was excavated in 1989 (Papazian 1991, 6-7). Access to the ground floor was gained from this level by means of an internal wooden stairs or a ladder in the W corner. The lower floor was lit by four small windows, again each one set in a centrally located deeply splayed embrasure in each wall; the one in the SW wall is not blocked off. Originally this floor was probably used for storage. Drainage holes visible in the gable walls at 1st-floor level indicate the level of the original roof. The walls and roof were subsequently raised c. 1250. During this phase a gallery was added to the SW end of the building. Clear evidence for this includes the remains of a masonry arch in the SW wall near the doorway and three beam holes opposite it in the NW wall (Sweetman *ibid.*). The raised walls are windowless apart from a slit window in the SE wall that lit the gallery. An intramural stairway to its E leads to the wall-walk. The merlons of the crenellated parapet are pierced with long cruciform arrow loops and beam holes visible below it indicate that the castle was further defended by a hoard. Further alterations occurred in the 15th century when the high gable ends were added, the ground floor was vaulted and the ground-floor doorway was inserted. During this period the parapets were incorporated into the gable walls. The vault inserted into the ground floor was supported on the NW and SE side-walls and three pillars along the centre of the floor. Traces of the wickerwork-centring are still visible on its underside. Following restoration works carried out by the Office of Public Works in the 1990s wooden floors were added to the second floor, which is now an audio-visual theatre, and the attic. A wooden stairway which accessed the 1st-floor doorway was replaced by a steel one in 2018. (Leask 1941, 36-9; Bradley and

Dunne 1992, 23-4).

AR2 GA084-001015

Parish Church

Immediately N of the Market Square is St Mary's Parish church. The building is believed to date from about 1289. It became a collegiate church sometime before 1485/1485 when John De Burgo founded a college for a warden and eight priests. In 1489 Pope Innocent VIII (1484-1492) issued instructions that the church return to its former state, due to the fact that De Burgo had been excommunicated from the church for various misdeed including the burning of Abbeyknockmoy Monastery some 10km to the N of Athenry in 1483. The Pope's instructions were ignored, however in 1576 the college was suppressed and the following year both the college and the church were burned by the sons of the Earl of Clanricarde who sacked the town in that year. A Protestant church was erected on the site of St Mary's chancel or choir in about 1828 and remained in use there until the middle of the 20th century. Portions of the Medieval nave and transepts still survive at the site and two nave columns are currently used as gateposts which lead onto the market square. The site is currently occupied by the Athenry Heritage Centre. A number of graveslabs and church features within the grounds are also recorded monuments.

AR3 GA084-001020

Market Cross

A triangular marketplace located at the junction of Cross St, Davis Street and Bridge Street stands at the heart of Athenry's urban street plan. In 1244 Meiler de Bermingham was granted a weekly market at Athenry (CDI. 1171-1251, 398). The market area is quite small today, but it has been argued that the original marketplace occupied the whole of the area marking the intersection between Bridge Street, North Gate Street and Old Church Street and was bounded by the church graveyard to the north (Bradley and Dunne 1990, 15). Standing within the marketplace is an impressive late medieval Gothic style cross of Tabernacle or Lantern type. These crosses are frequently found in Britain (particularly in the South West of England and Wales) Northern France, Germany and elsewhere in

Gothic Europe and typically date to the late 15th century. In Ireland the cross in Athenry is the only known example. Tabernacle or Lantern crosses derive their name from the fact that instead of a transom as a cross-head they have a rectangular swelling typically depicting a crucifixion scene in heavy relief. Almost invariably (as is the case in Athenry) such crosses have a long, tapering generally plain but chamfered shaft set into a sculpted socket which is on top of a large and often quite high stepped pyramidal base. Both sides of the cross are decorated and the recesses are surmounted by crocketed and pinnacled arched two over the front recess and one over each of the others. The front recess contains a carved cruciform scene, with Our Lady and St. John standing on either side of the cross. The back recess contains a carving of the Madonna and Child, while the two side-recesses are flat and plain. There are also a number of doglike animals on the sloping section immediately below the tabernacle section. The purpose of the market cross was two-fold, to serve as a focal point and as a place where bargains were struck. It is likely that the tabernacle or lantern cross replaced an earlier medieval market cross. In 1629 permission to hold a regular market in the town, and a fair in October, was granted to Sir William Parsons, whose name is still applied to the fair green located to the southwest of the town.

AR4 GA084-001020 National Monument No. 164

Priory

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 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 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-, GA084-001071- 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 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 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 have connected with that off the nave.

Numerous funerary monuments are scattered around the interior of the church, including the massive late 18th-century tomb dedicated to Lady Matilda Bermingham in the chancel. At least 10 beautifully carved high medieval graveslabs decorated with fleur-del-lis ornament are also visible (see GA084-001033- to GA084-001038-, GA085-001057-, GA084-001076-, GA084-001078- and GA084-001079-) and Rynne (1987-8, 144-7) has identified one coped grave cover (GA084-001032-) which most likely marked the grave of the founder, Meiler de Bermingham. Other graveslabs of interest are the elaborately decorated 17th-century slabs (GA084-001046- and GA084-001047-) and those bearing occupational symbols such a blacksmith's tools (GA084-001051-) or a plough sock and coulter (e.g. GA084-001062- to GA084-001065- and GA084-001084-).

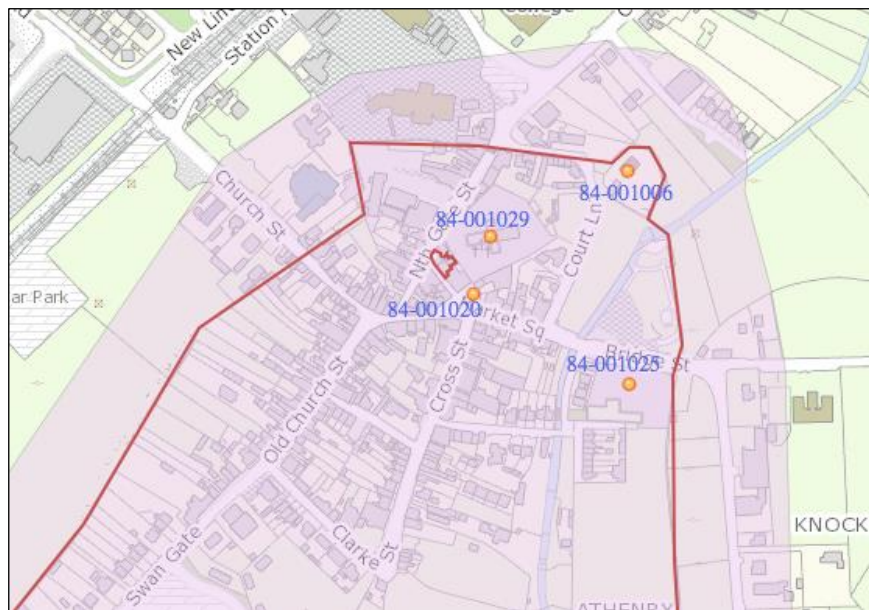


Fig. 3: Recorded Archaeological Features and Zone of Notification (shaded) in area of development.

Potential Archaeological Remains

Athenry medieval town developed around a significant fording point on the river Clareen and survives of the best-preserved medieval towns of Anglo-Norman origin in Ireland retaining over seventy percent of its medieval town wall as well

as remnants of an extramural fosse and banks. A restored castle, a ruined priory and parish church lie within the town walls.

The proposed works are inside the Zone of notification for the historic town (GA084:001) and Church (GA084-001015) in the general vicinity of a number of recorded and national monuments. Notification to the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht is required under section 12 (3) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 (Recorded Monument) and Notification under section 5 (8) of the 1987 Act (Register of Historic Monuments). The notification form must be completed and submitted to the National Monuments Service at least two months before any work is carried out at an archaeological/historic structure or site included in the Record of Monuments and Places or Register of Historic Monuments.

The proposed works at the site will be focused on internal alterations and improvements to the existing building and will not involve any ground disturbance.

Previous Archaeological Works

Archaeological pre-development testing and monitoring has been undertaken in various locations throughout the town, mainly in advance of development projects. Archaeological work undertaken at Cross St. and North Gate St. during 1998 and 1999 revealed little of archaeological significance. Monitoring and excavation in advance of laying ungraded water pipes and ESB ducts were carried out by Finn Delaney from September 2011 to January 2012 (E004226). 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.

Archaeological excavations have also taken place at the Castle and in the vicinity of the Abbey. In 1972 Professor Etienne Rynne of the Department of Archaeology at University College Galway excavated an area of land just outside the Southern bawn wall of Athenry Castle to establish whether or not there was a moat

(M512288). A flimsy dry stone wall stood on the boulder clay 3m out from the wall; this looked like a revetment wall, but it was buried in a fill nearly 2m deep, so its function has been long obsolete. In 1985 Rynne (M505278) also excavated a portion of a moat/fosse which runs just outside the town wall. Although greatly disturbed in modern times it was concluded that the feature was flat bottomed 1.70m deep and almost 5.5m in width. The fosse would have originally been water filled as it is located 1.5m lower than the present water level of the nearby river clarin. No ancient finds, and no clear evidence of an outer containing bank, were discovered. In 1990 Cliona Papazian, c/o Office of Public Works, Dublin undertook excavations around the castle (M512288). The greater part of the excavation failed to uncover substantial finds from the medieval period, however excavation of a cesspit adjacent to the garderobe produced artefactual and environmental remains which can be associated with the occupation of the castle. Finds recovered from this area included a bone comb and weaving pin and fragments of Saintonge green glazed and polychrome pottery. With the exception of a (residual) fragment of 15th-16th-century German stoneware, no evidence was uncovered of later medieval occupation. Excavation in the southern and south-western corner of the site revealed considerable post-medieval and later activity. A number of structural remains, some visible prior to excavation, were uncovered (excavations.ie). In 1997 Dominick Delaney undertook the excavation of a number of test trenches at a building on Barrack Lane (97E0150). A mass concrete house and stone shed were demolished in advance of the work, and four medieval dressed stones and architectural fragments were recovered from remains. The stones were likely to have been taken from the nearby friary church and reused as cornerstones in the construction of the shed. In 2000 Fiona Rooney undertook excavations at Raheen just N of the town (00E0364). The work revealed the presence of a number of possible archaeological features including a north-west/south-east-running bank, a D-shaped enclosure, and a ditch running north-south. One fragment of Saintonge pottery was recovered from the South West - East running bank indicating the feature dated to the medieval period. It is likely that the feature represented a field boundary. Furrows found in the test trenches ran in the same direction as the ditch. Two trenches excavated in the area of the D-shaped

enclosure revealed a much-denuded bank. No features or deposits were found within the interior. Finds included fragments of medieval pottery, animal bone and one fragment of Saintogne pottery, indicating a medieval date. The North – South running ditch in the west of the area of the proposed development consisted of a ditch, which appeared to have been filled with stone. Finds from this layer consisted primarily of iron fragments and iron nails. Excavations in the centre of the area revealed three small deposits with charcoal. However, they formed no cut, and no finds were found associated with them. In 2001 Richard Crumlish undertook rescue excavation work in St Mary’s Church and Graveyard (01E0027), which is located immediately to the N of the Market Square. No features of archaeological significance were recovered during the work. In 2006 Fiona Rooney excavated two trenches immediately NE of the proposed development (06E0177). The trenches were excavated as part of the works associated with previous plans for a Parish Centre. In both trenches archaeological features were revealed at a depth of 0.9m. The features consisted of pits with fills of clay and bone.

Cartographic Analysis

One single late-medieval/early modern map survives for Athenry. That map was created in 1583 by John Browne and is entitled ‘The Plat of Athenry’. It contains little detail apart from the location of the internal wall referred to by Sidney in 1576, which essentially cut the town in half.

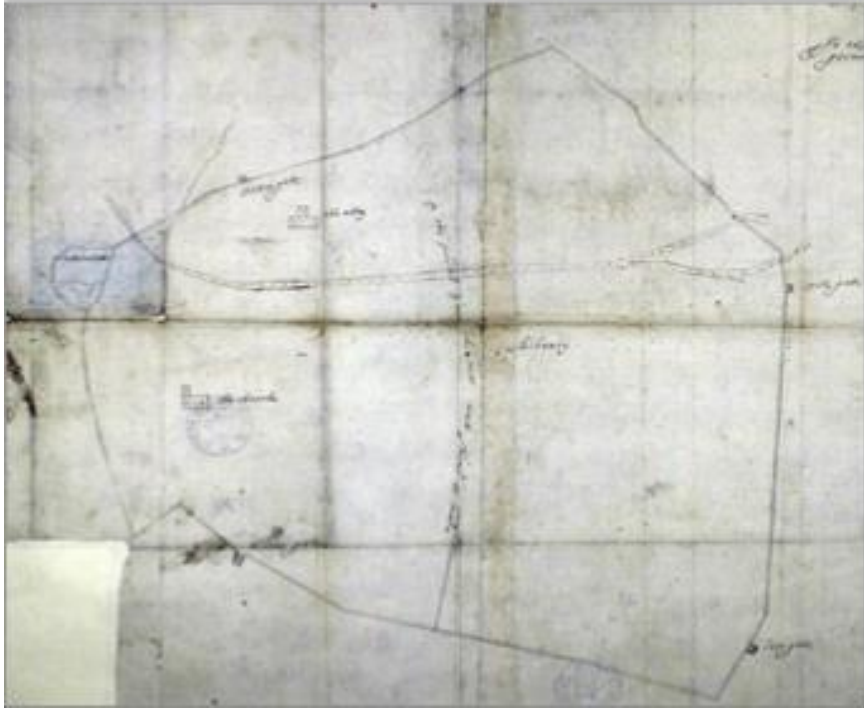


Fig. 4: 'Plat of Athenry' 1583, J. Browne (PRO SP63/104/34)

An examination of the various ordnance survey maps provided an opportunity to trace the development of the area from the 19th century. The existing street pattern is evident on the first edition maps and has changed little. The first edition map (1838) indicates a building at the site fronting onto Burke Lane with garden space at the rear.



Fig. 5: Extract from 1st edition O.S. Map (After OSI).



Fig. 6: Extract from Cassini ed. 6-inch O.S. Map (After OSI).

Architectural Heritage

Known architectural heritage assets in Burke Lane and area surrounding it are listed below and shown in Figure 7. The proposed works are located within the Town Centre Architectural Conservation Area. A total of 6 structures in the vicinity of Burke Lane/North Gates Street are recorded in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, one of which is also a Recorded Protected Structure.

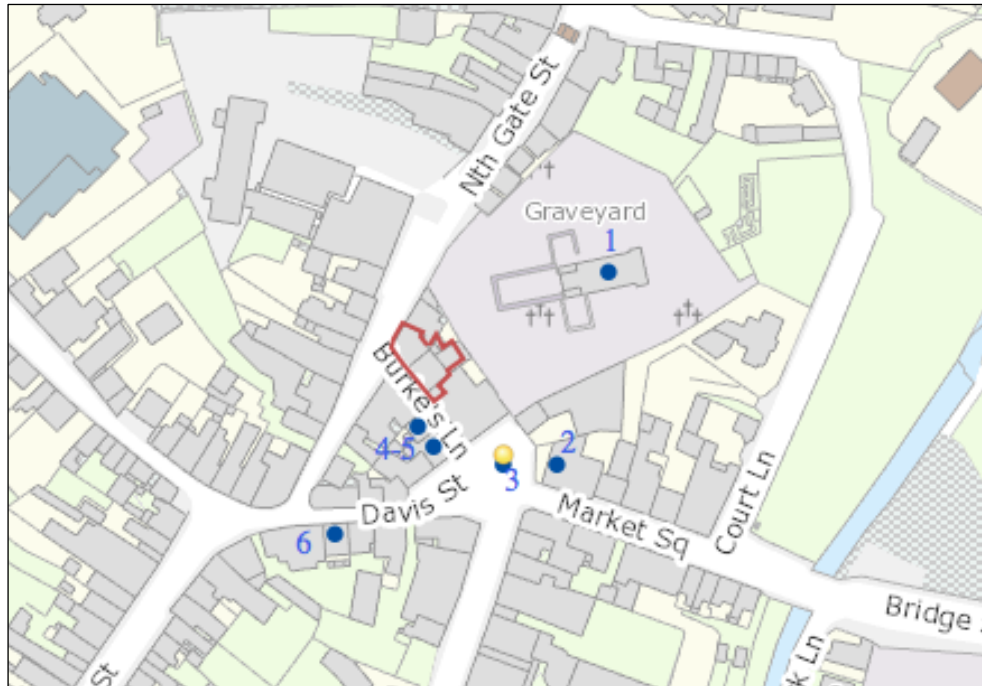


Fig. 7: Recorded Protected Structures and structures recorded in NIAH located in vicinity of the site.

No. 1

NIAH Reg. No: 30332017

Protected Structure

Townland: Athenry

Freestanding limestone former Church of Ireland Church, dated 1828, with three-bay nave elevation, gabled apse flanked by gabled chapels to east end, three-stage square-plan tower to west end with shallow gabled projections to north, south and west sides, with roofless remains of thirteenth-century church projecting from same sides. Now in use as heritage centre. Pitched slate roofs with slate ridge tiles and stone copings, and cast-iron rainwater goods.

Octagonal-plan cut-stone chimneystack over nave east gable. Crenellations to top stage and octagonal spire to tower. Snecked walls having tooled quoins and string courses. Pilasters to corners of top stage of tower. Lancet window openings to nave, double-light to middle bay of side walls and triple-light to east gable, having chamfered surrounds, hood-mouldings with carved stops and replacement timber windows. Pointed windows to chapels with chamfered surrounds and with moulded string course below and parallel to gable copings. Double lancet windows to top stage of tower, with chamfered surrounds, hood-mouldings and timber louvers. Pointed arch door opening to tower having tooled surround with timber panelled double-leaf door and stone threshold. Interior of church redesigned in 1999 to incorporate Heritage Centre. Marble memorial plaques located inside front entrance. Medieval ruins comprising rubble limestone walls with pointed-arch window openings having hood-mouldings and Y-tracery with triangular and diamond lights. Remnants of segmental-headed window opening to chancel north gable, segmental-arch door opening to south side of nave with tooled surround. Church set within graveyard north of Market Square and enclosed by rubble boundary walls.

No. 2

NIAH Reg. No: 30332021

Protected Structure

Townland: Athenry

End-of-terrace two-storey bank, built c.1870, having three-bay front elevation and multiple-bay side (south) elevation. Hipped slate roof with ridge tiles, rendered chimneystacks and overhanging eaves course with paired brackets. Granite ashlar walls to ground floor, roughcast rendered walls to first floor and rear bays of side elevation, with granite quoins, latter channelled and rusticated to ground floor. Replacement uPVC fasciaboards, and carved limestone cornice. Square-headed window openings, some paired and one tripled, having chamfered granite block-and-start surrounds to first floor, stone transoms and mullions to ground floor, with replacement uPVC windows throughout. Square-headed door opening to front elevation having ashlar surround and replacement timber door with overlight. Cut and carved granite piers with plinths flanking

pedestrian entrance, and cast-iron railings on tooled cut-stone plinth to front boundary.

No. 3

NIAH Reg. No: 30332020

Protected Structure 3977

Townland: Athenry

Freestanding limestone cross consisting of stepped rubble stone square-profile base, erected c.1810, with late medieval socket stone with carved animals, and carved lantern cross of c.1475

No. 4

NIAH Reg. No: 30332018

Protected Structure

Townland: Athenry

Terraced two-bay two-storey house, built c.1890. Pitched slate roof with cement rendered chimneystack, slate ridge tiles and cast-iron rainwater goods. Decorative red brick corbelling to red brick and cut limestone eaves course. Snecked limestone walls with tooled limestone quoins, red brick relieving arch above ground floor window. Square-headed window openings with block-and-start red brick surrounds, replacement timber door with overlight, and replacement uPVC windows with stone sills.

No. 5

NIAH Reg. No: 30332019

Protected Structure

Townland: Athenry

Corner-sited terraced two-storey house, built c.1890, having three-bay elevations to two streets, and having renewed shopfront to south elevation. Hipped slate roof with cement rendered chimneystacks, slate ridge tiles and cast-iron rainwater goods. Decorative red brick corbelling below eaves. Snecked limestone walls with tooled limestone quoins. Square-headed window openings with block-and-start red brick surrounds, stone sills and replacement uPVC

windows. Square-headed door opening to east elevation with similar detailing and replacement timber door. Square-headed door opening to south elevation with tooled limestone lintel and block-and-start jambs and replacement timber door. Three segmental red brick relieving arches above recent timber shopfront.

No. 6

NIAH Reg. No: 30332022

Protected Structure

Townland: Athenry

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.

SITE VISIT

The site was visited on Friday 10th of February 2023. The existing building is a two storey premises with a modern slate roof, three chimneys and modern fascia and gutters. The building faces onto both Burke Lane and Northgate Street in the centre of Athenry town. The recently painted building is attached to a two storey dwelling house on North Gate Street and a commercial building with residence overhead facing onto both Burke Lane and Market Square.



Fig. 8: Existing elevation.



Plates 1 & 2: View of building from S of Northgate Street and view from N of North Gate Street.

Entrance to the ground floor of the building is via a modern composite door, with a large window light above, facing onto Burke Lane, and a similar door set in a multi-light wooden frame facing onto North Gate Street. Both doorways lead to a large room that functioned as a café. The room has a natural wooden floor and a high ceiling supported by steel beams and has modern fixtures and fittings throughout. There is a cast iron column either side of the doorway facing onto North Gate Street. The existing walls are painted plasterboard that cover the original walls and features.



Plates 3 & 4: Ground floor main room from E and W.

A modern wooden panel door in the E wall leads to a two modern toilet facilities with tiled floors and modern sinks. A composite door in the N wall leads to the very small overgrown yard area that has a concrete covering. A second doorway in the E wall leads to a large roughly rectangular area lit by a window in the W wall. With tiled floor and modern fixtures and fittings this room functioned as the kitchen/food preparation area. A gap at N end of E wall leads to a N-S running hallway with a composite door in N wall that leads to a narrow outside space and a similar doorway in S wall that leads to Burke's Lane. A modern toilet is accessed via a wooden door in W wall of hallway.



Plate 5: Former kitchen/food preparation area. Taken from S.

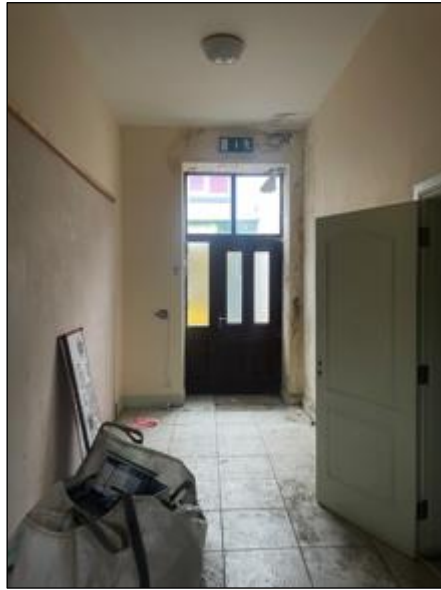


Plate 6: Hallway from N.

A metal stairway accessed from a composite doorway from Burke Lane leads to the first floor level of the building. The hallway, steps and first floor landing have tiled floors and modern fixtures and fittings. The first floor landing is lit by a large window looking onto Burke Lane. The first floor level of the building, like that below, has primarily got plasterboard covering the original walls and has modern fixtures and fittings throughout. Floor coverings are carpet, tiles and vinyl while window frames are composite or wood all of which have been inserted in the last 20 years.

The main ground floor area is a large room lit by two windows overlooking Burke Lane and three looking onto St. Marys Church (GA084-00015). The original walls are covered by painted plasterboard and carpet covers the floor. There are modern fixtures and fittings throughout. The E end of the room has a raised floor level. A doorway, off centre to S in E wall leads to a very small chamber lit by a window looking onto Burke Lane. A doorway in the W wall of the room leads to a hallway that in the S leads to the stairs and a room that overlooks the intersection between Burke's Lane and North Gate Street and in the W leads to further toilets and two further rooms overlooking North Gate Street.



Plates 7 & 8: Modern stairs and window on landing at first floor level.



Plate 9: View of main room at first floor level. Taken from the W



Plates 10 & 11: View from window in N wall and hallway at first floor level.



Plate 12: Room at W end of building at first floor level.

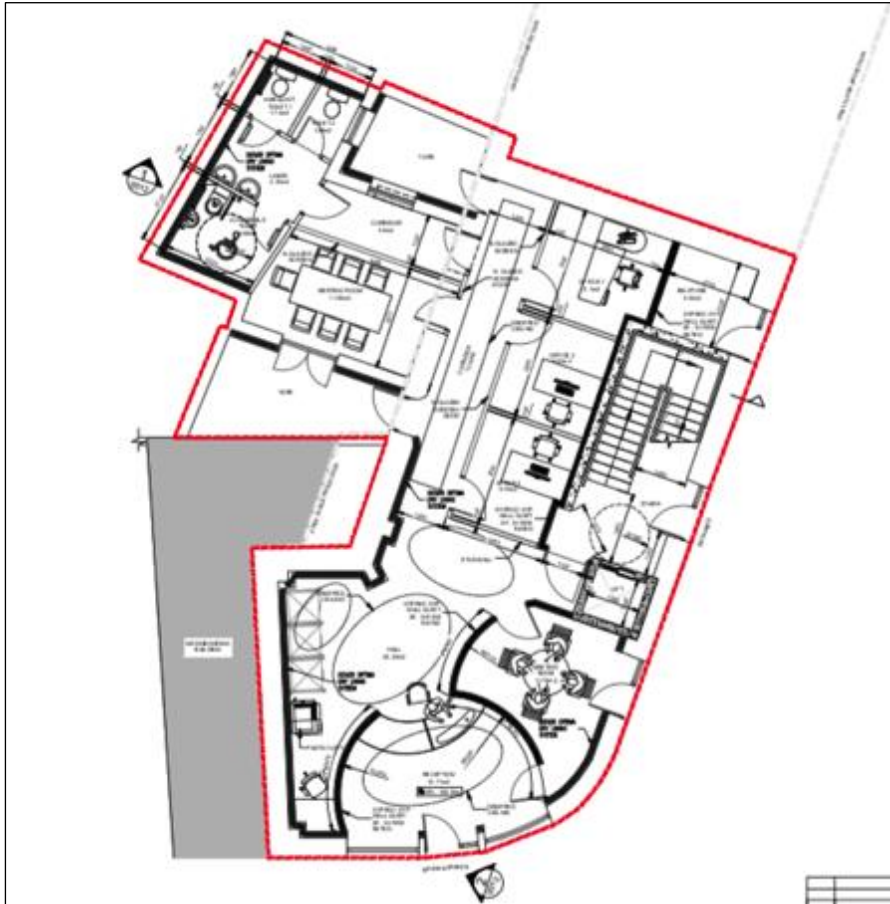


Fig. 9: Proposed ground floor level.

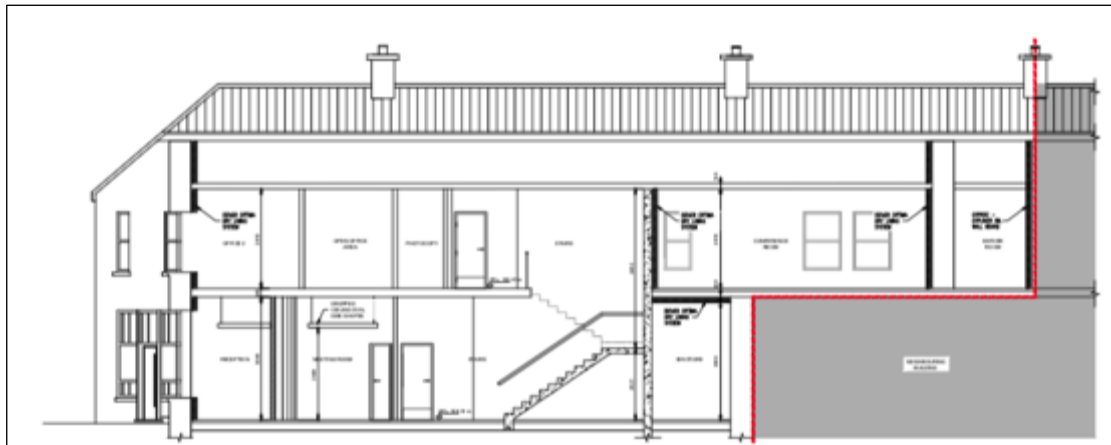


Fig. 10: Elevation indicating stairway leading from ground level to first floor.

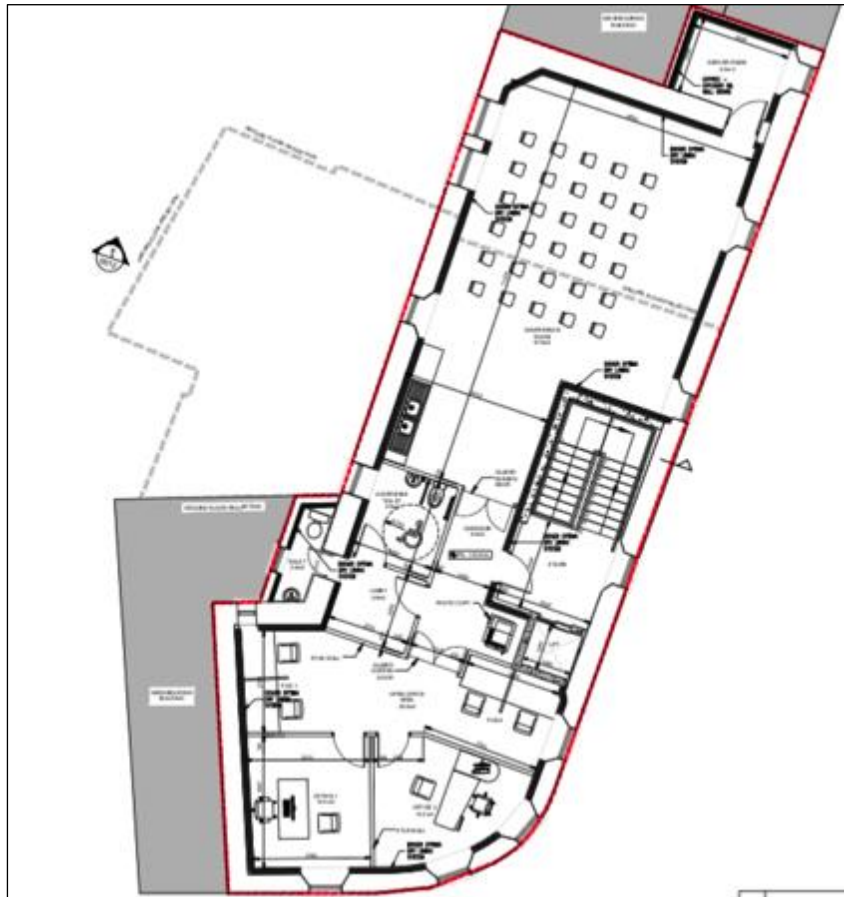


Fig. 11: Proposed first floor.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Archaeology

Renovation and alteration works at site will not directly impact any upstanding monuments. As outlined above, the proposed works fall inside the Zone of Notification for the historic town (GA084-001) and St Mary's Church (GA084-001015) and in proximity to the Market Cross (GA084-001020). Notification to the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht is required under section 12 (3) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 (Recorded Monument) and Notification under section 5 (8) of the 1987 Act (Register of Historic Monuments). The notification form must be completed and submitted to the National Monuments Service at least two months before any work is carried out at an archaeological/historic structure or site included in the Record of Monuments and Places or Register of Historic Monuments. No ground

disturbance is proposed at the site. The main focus of works at the existing building will be the access to the stairway from ground floor level. This will not impact on any archaeological layers or features.

Architectural Heritage

The building is not a Recorded Protected structure or listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. It is located within the Town Centre Architectural Conservation Area. The plans of the proposed development indicate that the appearance of the building will be improved by the development which will include installation of suitable wooden sash windows and removing the plasterboard currently covering the original walls and inserting a breathable membrane against the original fabric before plasterboard is rebuilt.

Other Cultural Heritage

The likely impact, if any, on recreation and tourism is outside the scope of this assessment. However, the proposed works are predicted to have a positive impact on the character and setting of the medieval town.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No significant impacts are predicted on upstanding recorded monuments as a result of the proposed works. As there is no ground disturbance proposed there is no potential for previously unrecorded subsurface archaeology.

The proposed development will see the removal of the existing plasterboard to facilitate a breathable membrane to be placed against the original walls. The removal of the plasterboard will afford the opportunity to record the original features of the building and it is recommended that these features are recorded throughout the building. Any features of architectural significance noted should be reported and provisions made to incorporate them into the new design. The County Council Architectural Conservation officer should be consulted to advise on how best to proceed in relation to any features from the original building being incorporated into the new design.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the assessment, the following recommendations are made:

- The National Monuments Service (NMS), Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to be given two months written notice prior to the commencement of works; [SEP]
- The Local Authority's Heritage Officer and the Council's Architectural Conservation officer should be consulted to advise on all works.
- All necessary precautions to be taken to ensure there are no inadvertent impacts to any upstanding monuments or Protected Structures as a result of the proposed works through machinery movements, vibrations and so on. [SEP]

These conclusions and recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Galway County Council's Heritage Officer who may issue additional or alternative requirements.

REFERENCES

Primary Sources

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)

Constraint maps and Catalogue

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

SMR archival files in National Monuments Service

Topographical Files in National Museum of Ireland

Finds Registers in National Museum of Ireland

Ordnance Survey 1st Ed. 6" Map

Ordnance Survey 2nd Ed. 6" Map

Ordnance Survey Revised Ed. 6" Map

Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands. 1999a *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*. Dublin. Government Publications Office.

Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands. 1999b *Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation*. Dublin. Government Publications Office.

Environmental Protection Agency. 2003 *Advice Notes on Current Practice (in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)*. Dublin. Government Publications Office.

Environmental Protection Agency. 2003 *Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Statements*. Dublin. Dublin. Government Publications Office.

Secondary Sources

Author unknown. *The Annals of the Four Masters*..:

Alcock, O. 1999. *Archaeological inventory of County Galway, Part 2 North Galway*. Dublin.

- Bradley, J. 1985 Planned Anglo-Norman Towns in Ireland. In H.B. Clarke and A. Simms (eds), *The Comparative History of Urban Origins in Non-Roman Europe*. BAR Series, II, 411-67. Oxford.
- Bradley, J. 1995 *Walled Towns in Ireland*. Dublin.
- Bradley, J. and Dunne, N. 1990 *Urban Archaeological Survey, Part XIX, County Galway*. O.P.W.
- Coleman, A. 1902 *The Ancient Dominican Foundations of Ireland*. Dundalk.
- Galway County Development Plan.
- Harbison, P. 1988. *Pre-Christian Ireland: from the first settlers to the early Celts*. London.
- Harbison, P. 1975 *Guide to the National Monuments of Ireland*. Dublin.
- Hardiman, J. 1820 *The History of the Town and County of Galway, from the earliest period to the present time, embellished with several engravings*. Dublin.
- Hardiman, J. 1846 *A Chorographical Description of West or H-Iar Connaught*. Dublin.
- Joyce, P.W., 1990. *Irish Local Names Explained*. London.
- Killanin, Lord and Duignan, M.V. 1962. *Shell Guide to Ireland*. London.
- Knox, H.T. 1900-1901 *The De Burgo Clans of Galway*. JGAHS I, 124-131. [L] [SEP] Knox, H.T. 1901 *Occupation of the County of Galway by the Anglo-Normans after A.D. 1237*. JRSAL 31, 365-370. [L] [SEP] Knox, H.T. 1902 *Occupation of Connaught by the Anglo-Normans after A.D. 1237*. JRSAL 32, parts i and ii, 132-138/ 393-406. [L] [SEP] Knox, H.T. 1903 *Occupation of Connaught by the Anglo-Normans after A.D. 1237*. JRSAL 33, parts iii, iv and v, 58-74/ 179-189/ 284-294. [L] [SEP]
- Lewis, S. 1837. *A topographical dictionary of Ireland*, 2 vols. London.
- Literary, Historical and Place-name Sources', PRIA 85 C 37-60.*
- O'Brien, C. and Sweetman, P.D. 1997. *Archaeological inventory of County Offaly*. Dublin.

O'Connor, K.D., 1998. *The Archaeology of Medieval Rural Settlement in Ireland*. Dublin.

O'Donovan, J. 1838 *The Ordnance Survey Letters, Co. Galway*. vol I. Dublin.

Rynne, E. 1991 *1241-1991 750th Anniversary of the founding of the Dominican Priory of Saints Peter and Paul Athenry*. Athenry Historical Society. Galway.

Rynne, E. 1995 Athenry In A. Simms and J.H. Andrews (eds), *More Irish Country Towns*, 106-117. Dublin.

Stout, M., 1997. *The Irish Ringfort*. Dublin.

Taylor, G. and Skinner, A. 1778. *Maps of the Roads of Ireland*. Dublin.

Waddell, J. 1998. *The prehistoric archaeology of Ireland*. Galway.

Otway-Ruthven, A. J., 1968 *A History of Medieval Ireland*. London.

Reeves-Smyth, T. 1997 *Atlas of the Rural Irish landscape*.

Simmington, R. C. 1970 *The Transplantation of Connaught, 1654-58*.

Electronic Sources

www.excavations.ie – Summary of archaeological excavation from 1970–2017

www.archaeology.ie – DCHG website listing all SMR sites with aerial photographs

www.buildingsofireland.ie – DCAHG website listing the result of the County Longford National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

www.googleearth.com – Aerial photographs of the proposed development area

www.osiemaps.ie – Ordnance Survey aerial photographs dating to 1995, 2000 to present

Lewis, H.S. 1837(online version) *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*.

APPENDIX 1 FINDS FROM ATHENRY RECORDED IN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES

Stray finds from the Athenry Area

1. Copper halberd of Breaghwy type NMI 1936: Harbison 1969, 46: no 295.
2. Bronze winged axe/ palstave. Cat. Day Coll. (1913) 30: lot 227.
3. Bronze basal-looped spearhead. Cat. Day Coll (1913) 47: lot 331.
4. Bronze spearhead with lunate openings in the blade and a bronze sword.
Both found prior to 1852. JRSAL 1xxxxix (1969), 27-30, fig. 3:1 and fig. 5:5.
5. Bronze shield of Late Bronze Age date. Found in an earthen mound or rath together with a large spearhead (now lost). BM 1886. 7-19.1. JRSAL cxii (1982) 10-17; Eoghan 1983, 87-8.
6. Bronze scabbard chape of la Tene Style. BM. 1868.7-9.3. Raftery 1983, 105.
7. Two bronze maceheads of medieval date from Athenry, Co. Galway. NMI 1881: 216, 225a. Halpin 1988, nos 1-2.
8. Iron object from Clareen River near Athenry Castle.

Townland Doonane

Reg. no. 1932:6566

Find Bronze axehead

The axehead has wide side flanges and a stop ridge. It measures 15cm in length, 7.5cm in width at the cutting edge and 2.8cm in width at the base. The bevelled cutting edge is somewhat damaged. On both faces there is a raised ridge running down from the stop ridge towards the cutting edge.

Townland Vicinity of Athenry

Reg. no. 1938:153

Find Bronze pin

Townland ---

Reg. no. IA/90/63

Find Seal and mace

The seal is brass and circular in outline with four evenly spaced semicircular, perforated projections, by means of which the seal was fastened by rivets to the wooden handle. The flat front has a recessed design of a castle surmounted by five human heads. This pattern is surrounded by a check design. The whole is surrounded by the inscription. The carved wooden handle has four projections at the base. Its convex, mushroom-like head is ornamented with shallow, concentric grooves (maximum width and thickness of seal is 4.65cm and 4mm respectively while the maximum length and width of the handle is 10cm and 5.3cm respectively). The brass macehead is in the shape of a clenched fist and a short forearm. There is a large moulding at the wrist and a smaller one at the end of the forearm. The macehead is mounted on a long polished wooden handle which bears two series of incomplete encircling grooves near the centre (maximum length, width and thickness of head: 10.3cm, 5.1cm and 4.7cm respectively and maximum length and width of handle is 15.1cm and 3.7cm respectively).