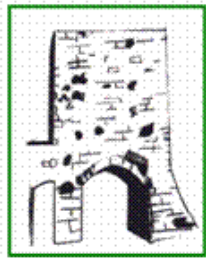


**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
& CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT
AT TUAM RAILWAY STATION, TUAM,
COUNTY GALWAY**

PART 8 PLANNING APPLICATION



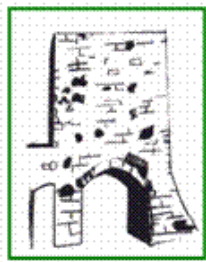
Through Time Ltd.

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

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
& CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT
AT TUAM RAILWAY STATION, TUAM,
COUNTY GALWAY**

Martin Fitzpatrick, M.A.

February 2025



Through Time Ltd.

***Professional Archaeological Services
Old church Street, Athenry, Co. Galway
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT
HAVE BEEN PRESENTED TO:**

Client: Galway County Council.

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

PLEASE NOTE...

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

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II ABBREVIATIONS

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^[L]_{SEP}]

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

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

OS Ordnance Survey^[L]_{SEP}]

OSI Ordnance Survey of Ireland^[L]_{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^[L]_{SEP}]

SMR Sites and Monuments Record

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.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Project Background

Through Time Ltd. were engaged by Galway County Council to undertake an archaeological and cultural heritage assessment at Tuam Railway station as part of a proposed re-development of the station as a Technology and Innovation hub. Galway County Council intends to redevelop this building in partnership with a local Community Group - Action Tuam. This report concerns the archaeology and cultural heritage elements as a separate conservation architectural report will accompany the Part 8 application.

Site Location

The proposed development is located within the townland of Vicarschoral land at the southern end of Tuam town in County Galway. The railway buildings are accessed to the south of the junction off Vicar Street and Church View and are close to the centre of the historic town (GA029-199).

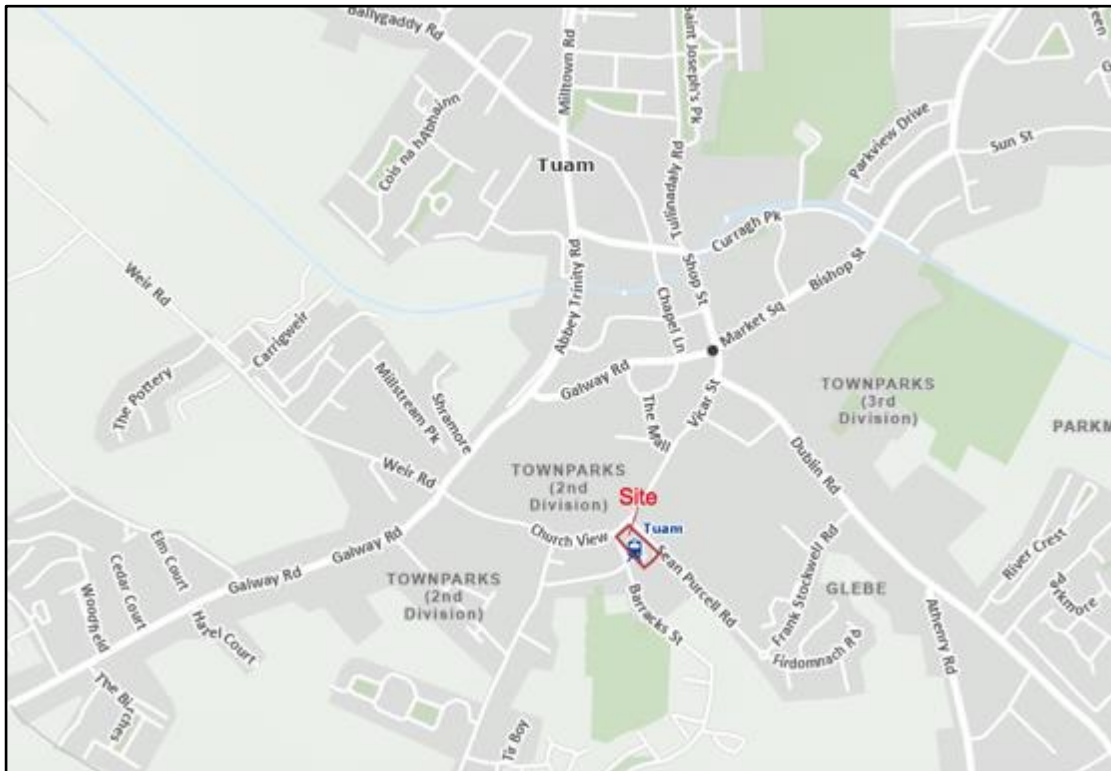


Fig. 1: Site Location.

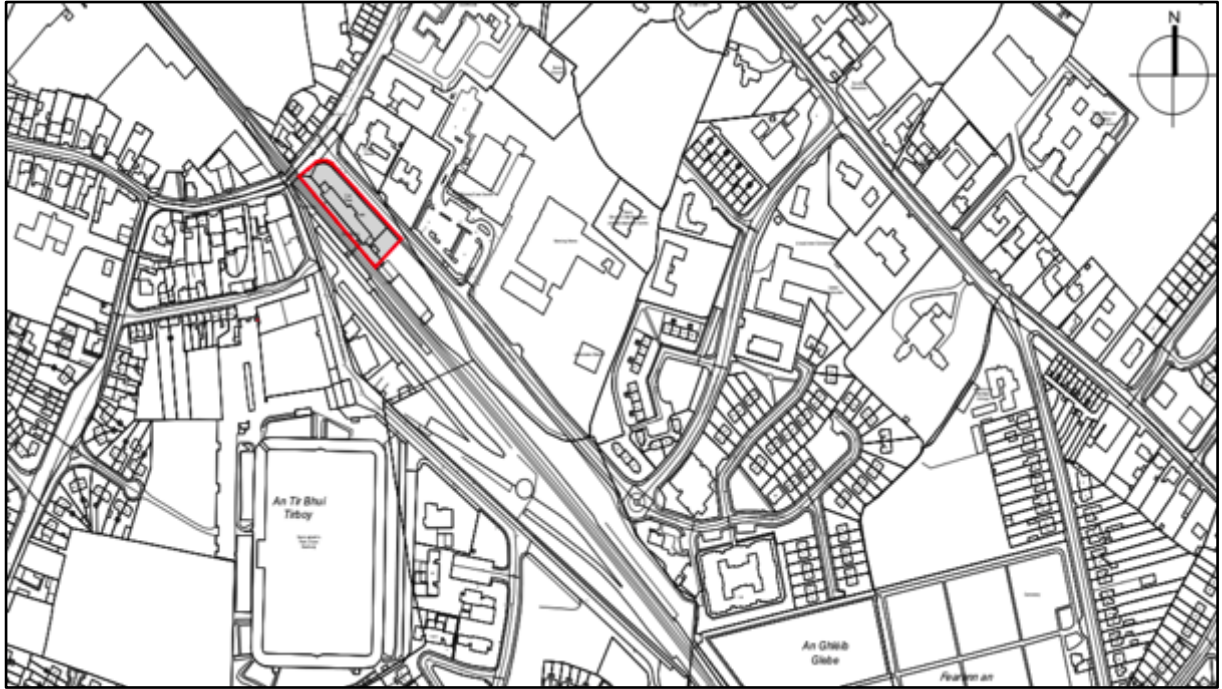


Fig. 2: Detail of site location.

Proposed Works

The development will involve

Change of use from former commercial uses to office and event space. Demolition of internal and external elements to provide new office space and welfare facilities, and new glazed connecting walkway. New single storey extension to accommodate an event space and new two storey extension to facilitate a podcast room at ground floor and canteen at first floor level, with new fully accessible entrance area. New hard and soft landscaping and all ancillary site works. The proposed development will include work to Recorded Protected Structure No. 52 and to a building listed on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage No. 30331045.

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.

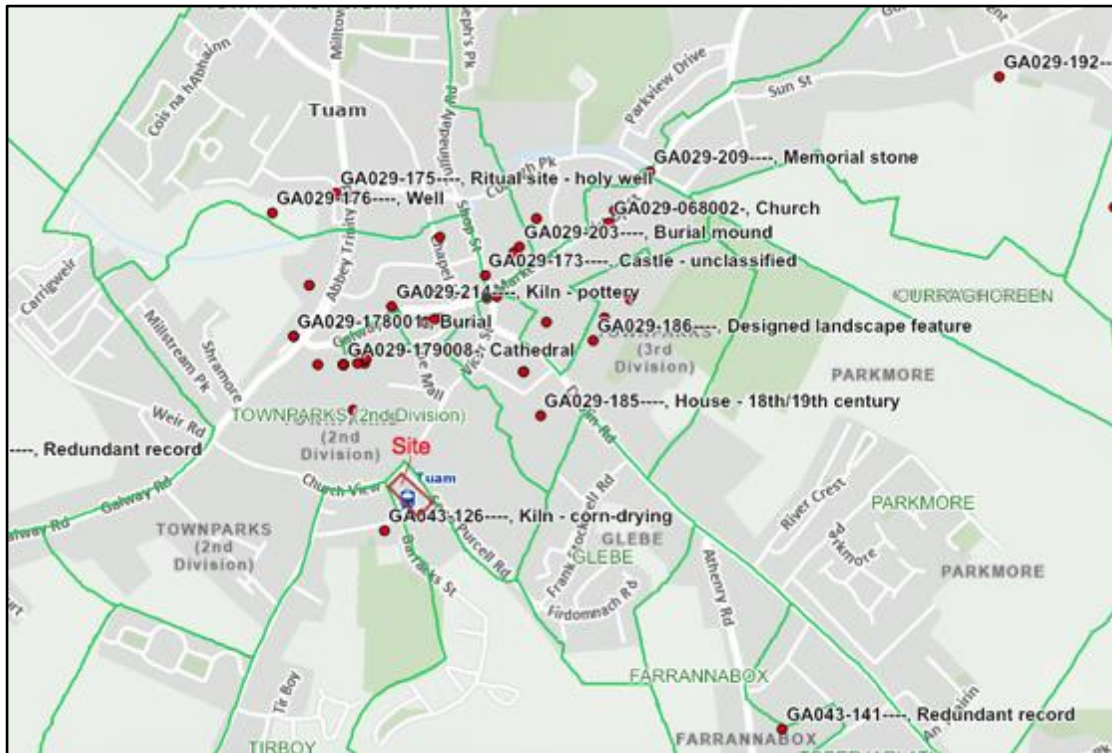


Fig. 3: Site location in relation to surrounding recorded monuments.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology used for this assessment is based on Environmental Protection Agency (EPA 2003) *Advice Notes on Current Practice in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements* and EPA (2002) *Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements*; as well as more recent (draft) guidance methods have also been utilised per EPA (2015) *Draft Advice Notes for Preparing an EIS* and (2022) *Guidelines for Information to be Contained in EIAR*. The report seeks to comply with the requirements of Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, and the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended). The assessment has also been informed by guidelines for the assessment of impacts on the cultural heritage resource as published by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS 2011), *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; ^[1]_[2]

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 [L] [SEP]
3. Report writing. [L] [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; [L] [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>; [L] [SEP]

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

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

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

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

Cartographic sources, including the first-edition six-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map, the 25-inch OS map along with other available maps; [L] [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, Tuam Local Area Plan and Record of Protected Structures (RPS); and [L] [SEP] National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH). [L] [SEP] History and Folklore [L] [SEP]

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND GUIDELINES

Archaeological monuments are protected through national and international policy designed to secure the protection of the cultural heritage resource. This is facilitated

in accordance with the provisions of the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention), which was ratified by Ireland in 1997. The *Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023* (“the Act”) was enacted on 13th October 2023 and partially entered into force on the 31st of May 2024. Pending the commencement of the provisions of the Act which will repeal *the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014* and related legislation, those Acts and related legislation remain fully in force as they stood on 13th October 2023.

The National Monuments Act 1930 to 2004 and relevant provisions of the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997 are the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of archaeological remains, which includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. A National Monument is described as: “*a monument or the remains of a monument the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto*” (National Monuments Act 1930 Section 2).

A number of mechanisms under the National Monuments Act are applied to secure the protection of archaeological monuments. These include the Register of Historic Monuments, the Record of Monuments and Places and the placing of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders on endangered sites.

The minister may acquire National Monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The State or the Local Authority may assume guardianship of any National Monument (other than dwellings). The owners of National Monuments may also appoint the Minister or the local Authority of that monument if the State or Local Authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the State, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

Section 5 of the 1987 Act requires the Minister to establish and maintain a Register of Historic Monuments. Historic monuments and archaeological areas present on the Register are afforded statutory protection under the 1987 Act. Any interference with sites recorded on the Register is illegal without the permission of the Minister. Two months notice in writing is required prior to any work being undertaken on or in the vicinity of a Registered Monument. The Register also includes sites under preservation orders and temporary preservation orders with the written consent, and at the discretion of the Minister.

Section 12 (1) of the 1994 Act requires the Minister to establish and maintain a Record of Monuments and Places where the Minister believes that such monuments exist. The Record comprises a list of monuments and relevant places and a map/s showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the state. All sites

recorded on the Record of Monuments and Places receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1994.

Section 12 (3) of the 1994 Act provides that:

“Where the owner or occupier (other than the Minister) of a monument or place included in the Record, or any other person, proposed to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such a monument or place, he or she shall give notice to the Minister to carry out work and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister, commence the works until two months after the giving of notice”.

The Architectural Heritage and Historic Properties Act 1999 and the Planning and Development Act of 2000 are the main built heritage legislation. The Architectural Heritage Act requires the Minister to establish a survey to identify, record and assess the architectural heritage of the country. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) records all built heritage structures within specific counties in Ireland. The document is used to advise local Authorities on the register of a Record of Protected Structures (RPS) as required by the Planning and Development Act, 2000. The Act of 2000 requires Local Authorities to establish a Record of Protected Structures to be included in the County Development Plan (CDP). Buildings recorded in the RPS can include Recorded Monuments, structures listed in the NIAH or buildings deemed to of architectural, archaeological or artistic importance by the Minister. Once listed in the RPS the sites/areas receive statutory protection from injury or demolition under the 2000 Act. Damage to or demolition of a site registered in the RPS is an offence. The detail of the list varies from County to County. If the Local Authority considers a building to be in need of a repair it can order conservation and/or restoration works. The owner or developer must make a written application/request to the local authority to carry out any works on a protected structure and its environs.

Where a National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) survey has been carried out, those structures which have been attributed a rating value of international, national or regional importance in the inventory are recommended by the Minister of the EHLG to the relevant planning authority for inclusion on the RPS. In accordance with Section 53 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, if a planning authority, after considering a recommendation made to it under this section, decides not to comply with the recommendation, it shall inform the Minister in writing of the reason for its decision.

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.

Local Area Plan

The Tuam Local Area Plan 2023-2029 (TAP) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements and provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). It sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Tuam in the context of the Galway County Development Plan (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).

Details of Local Area Plan-Tuam

Urban Design

Urban design refers to the theory and practice of creating successful urban places, it is an approach to the built Environment which involves looking particularly at the spaces between buildings, including the streets, frontages, landscaping, civic spaces and overall place-making, such as building types, building materials, mass, height and scale as well as arrangements, urban block types and patterns, mix of uses and activities etc. Successful urban design is essential in the creation of attractive and sustainable living and working environments and the establishment of a unique identity and sense of place for Tuam which is crucial to the vitality and success of the Town centre. Cohesive well designed communities and settlements have the opportunity to attract better investment, they are functional; they support mixed uses and tenures; include successful public spaces; are adaptable and resilient; have a distinctive character; are attractive; and encourage ease of movement.

Landscape, Townscape and Visual Amenity

The European Landscape Convention that was signed and ratified by Ireland came into force in March 2004. The Convention introduced a European wide concept centring on the quality of landscape protection, management and planning and extends to natural, urban, peri-urban and rural areas encompassing land, inland water, coastal and marine areas. The Convention defines landscape as “.....area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of

natural and/or human factors”, which is also the definition included in the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

Galway County Council prepared a Landscape Character Assessment in 2002 which forms part of the current Galway County Development Plan and indicates the landscape character rating, value rating and sensitivity rating. Landscape sensitivity in County Galway ranges from Class 1 to Class 5, with Class 1 being low sensitivity, Class 2 – moderate sensitivity, Class 3 – high sensitivity, Class 4 - special sensitivity and Class 5 – unique sensitivity. The townscape and streetscapes of Tuam are an important part of the built heritage and visual amenity of the urban area. The protection and enhancement of the townscape, streetscapes and historic street pattern when considering future development are a priority for the enhancement of the town centre. Key street frontages have been identified and given priority status, a scheme of enhancement and improvement of these buildings and streets will be considered as part of the town centre management plan.

This proposal seeks to comply with a key priority of the LAP in, *“promoting the use of sustainable urban design principles and approaches that will help to create high quality built and natural environments appropriate to the context and landscape setting of Tuam, having regard to the guidance contained in the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines 2009 and the accompanying Urban Design Manual 2009 & the Design Manual for Urban Roads & Streets 2013 (including any superseding guidance documents). This will focus on the development of a high quality, well landscaped and appropriately scaled built environment with a strong civic and commercial core, responsive building frontages, appropriate building forms, heights, designs and materials and high quality civic, community, recreational and amenity facilities.*

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

Objective UD 1 – High Quality, Contextually Sensitive Design

Ensure that new developments are responsive to their site context and in keeping with the character, amenity, heritage, environment and landscape of the area. New development proposals will be required to complement the existing character of the area in terms of scale, height, massing, building line, urban grain and definition and through high quality design proposals for buildings/structures/shop fronts, the use of high quality, appropriate materials and the provision of appropriate signage, lighting, landscaping proposals and other such details.

Objective UD 2 – Public Spaces and Streets

Promote the development of high quality public spaces consisting of streets, squares, parks and amenities connected by a network of pedestrian and cycling routes. Public spaces should have a high standard of design and street furniture that will create a coherent character for the area. This would include appropriately designed and located park benches, bus shelters, cycle storage facilities, refuse bins, signage, street sculpture, etc. but should avoid the over-proliferation of different elements and/or cluttering of public spaces.

Objective UD 3 – Spatial Definition and Animation

Ensure that new developments are designed to provide spatial definition and animation to public spaces and streets through the use of appropriate building lines and built forms, responsive building frontages and passive surveillance and high quality streetscapes and/or landscaping edges to enclose and address public spaces. Perimeter block typologies provide a useful approach in generating good spatial definition, adequate enclosure and a high quality public realm and the creation of focal points, such as landmark buildings and gateways, help to improve spatial definition and legibility and will be encouraged in appropriate locations.

Objective UD 4 – Green Network and Landscaping

Support the development of a network of amenities, open spaces and natural areas that support biodiversity, that incorporate existing landscape features such as local rivers, streams, natural meadows, trees, stone walls and hedgerows, that provide pedestrian and cycling linkages and active and passive recreation opportunities, that help to structure and provide relief from the built environment and that can provide areas for surface water attenuation and flood risk management.

Objective UD 5 – Street-Oriented Development and Responsive Frontages

Promote street-oriented development along the urban street network within the built areas and along the approach routes to the town. This will include improved facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport as appropriate and the promotion of high quality building and/or hard and soft landscaping edges to these routes. Buildings and spaces should be designed to provide a human scale along street frontages with the use of appropriate building heights and responsive ground floor treatments. Intensive, fine-grained developments will generally be encouraged to provide a diversity of building forms and public spaces.

Objective UD 6 – Design and Access Statements

The Planning Authority will require all large scale or sensitively located development proposals, such as those in close proximity to the Architectural Conservation Area, Protected structures, significant public amenity, elevated positions or visually

vulnerable areas, and in the case of any other development proposals where this is considered necessary by the planning authority to be accompanied by design and access statements.

Objective UD 7 – Landscape Character, Values, Sensitivity and Views/Prospects

Protect the landscape character, values, sensitivities, focal points and views in the plan area, including those identified in the Galway County Development Plan, included in the Landscape Character Assessment for County Galway.

Ensure that new developments are responsive to the high and special sensitivity landscapes within the plan area, visually vulnerable areas, elevated areas or locally important townscape contexts.

Require Visual Impact Assessment for developments with potential to impact on areas of significant landscape character, value or sensitivity, including both urban and natural features, such as historic buildings/structures, as appropriate.

Prohibit development that will block or interfere with a significant view or prospect. Where it is considered that a development may impact on views or prospects, have regard to the significance of any such impact and any appropriate mitigation measures that should be incorporated.

Recorded Monuments and Places and other important features of architectural or archaeological heritage.

Galway County Council will ensure the implementation of the legislative, statutory and policy provisions relevant to the conservation of the built heritage including the following (and any updated/superseding documents):

- Legislative provisions in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended).
- Statutory provisions in the Galway County Development Plan, including the Record of Protected Structures.
- Policy guidance in Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015, the Architectural Heritage Protection

Guidelines 2004/2011, and the Archaeology and Development: Guidelines for Good Practice for Developers.

Policy HC 2 – Cultural Heritage

It is the policy of Galway County Council to acknowledge and promote awareness of the origins, historical development and cultural heritage of the town and to generally support high quality developments that relate to local heritage and to ensure that new development respects and is responsive of its local context.

Objective HC 1 – Architectural Heritage and Protected Structures

Ensure the protection and conservation of the architectural heritage in the plan area, in particular by implementing the relevant legislative provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in relation to architectural heritage and policy guidance contained within the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2004/2011, (or any superseding document).

Objective HC 2 – Protected Structures

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

Objective HC 3 – Architectural Conservation Areas

Protect, conserve and enhance the essential character of the Tuam Architectural Conservation Area, through respecting the surviving historic plots and street patterns and 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 HC 4 – Development Relating to Protected Structures and ACAs

Ensure that any development, modifications, alterations, or extensions materially affecting the character of a protected structure, or structure adjoining a protected structure, or structure within or adjacent to the Architectural Conservation Area, is sited and designed appropriately and is not detrimental to the character or setting of the protected structure, or the Architectural Conservation Area. This will include the following:

- • Works materially affecting the character of a protected structure or the exterior of a building/structure within an Architectural Conservation Area will require planning permission.
- • Any works/development carried out to a protected structure or the exterior of a building/structure within an Architectural Conservation Area shall be in accordance with best conservation practice and use sustainable and appropriate materials.
- • Works/development within the Architectural Conservation Area shall ensure the conservation of traditional features and building elements which contribute to the character of the area.
- • New proposals shall have appropriate regard to scale, plot, form, mass, design, materials, colours and function.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Located on a steep rise on the southern bank of the River Nanny, Tuam is flanked by bogs to the east and west. The name is thought to have derived from *Tuaim-da-ghualann* or *Tuaim Dáa Ghualainn*, the tumulus of the two shoulders or the burial mound with two shoulders. It is also possible that the two shoulders were physical landmarks in the area and there is a strong tradition of a clay urn being extracted from a clay mound in the 1880's. The *tuam* or tumulus from which the name is derived was later used as an inauguration place. It is thought to have been located on the site now occupied by a supermarket carpark. The monument is also associated with 'The Chair of Tuam' which some believe was erected on the site of the tumulus and the mayors or sovereigns of the municipality sat on it on the day of their inauguration (Spellissy 1999, 231). This monument is annotated but not clearly depicted on the 1st ed. of OS 6-inch map to the east of Shop St. In discussing the significance of the 'ancient name of Tuam ... Tuam da ghuálainn', the OS Letters (O' Flanagan 1927, Vol. 1, 31, 64) record that 'the spot ... which tradition says, gave originally name to Tuam, is still pointed out in John Costelloe's garden ... It is called the chair of Tuam, in which sat after his election, the member formerly returned by Tuam as a borough, to Parliament'. In 1980, it was reconstructed as a formal inauguration chair of cut limestone and set into a possible turret of the castle. However, it may originally have been just a symbolic term, possibly more closely associated with the 'tumulus' nearby (Kelly 1904, 257; Ó Murchú 1907, 7).

The town of Tuam developed as a monastic centre, being reputedly founded by St Jarlath in the sixth century (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 98), and was one of the most important pre-Norman sites in Connacht. The first definite evidence of a monastery comes from the *Annals of Ulster* in 781 AD when the death of Nuada O'Bolcain, abbot of Tuam is recorded. Evidence for the early monastic enclosure still survives in the curving streets of Vicar Street and Church Lane. Swan (1985) identified a potential early monastic enclosure at Temple Jarlath in the curving eastern and southern boundary wall of the graveyard. The original enclosure would possibly have been up to 120m in diameter and is now bisected by High Street which was probably laid out in the seventeenth century. The remains comprise a large raised and roughly D-shaped graveyard at the eastern end of which is a ruined church. The Poorly preserved remains of a rectangular church indicate it was a thirteenth century parish church with a later tower at its western end. The eastern gable survives intact and contains fine triple light pointed arch window in what is known by Leask as the transitional style. In

the masonry above it are a number of Romanesque heads which were probably reused from an earlier church (Alcock et al 1999). Jim Higgins (1987) has catalogued an unclassified cross slab which was recorded by Macalister in 1949 who describes the find location as the 'ancient graveyard in tuam' which seems to have been that surrounding Temple Jarlath. Higgins states that Macalister recorded that the stone was in a private collection but was replaced in the wall of the church in which it was found after he examined it.

Claffey (2009, 1) believes that the site of Temple Jarlath was probably newly chosen for a re-established settlement built by Áed Ua Conchobair or 'Áed of the gapped spear', in the eleventh century. The O'Connors chose to make Tuam their provincial stronghold and Hugh O'Connor established a stronghold in Tuam in 1047 and a residence in 1051. During the twelfth century the O'Connor kings of Connacht made Tuam one of their principal seats. Under the patronage of the Kings of Connacht the settlement expanded rapidly and was named as one of four metropolitan sees at the Synod of Kells in 1152 (Killanin and Duignan 1967, 443-5; Stalley 1981, 179-80; Bradley and Dunne 1992, 166-8). The O'Connors built a 'castle' here in 1161 and by the first half of the 13th century documentary sources are referring to 'the suburbs' and 'houses of the ... town' as well as the granting of a licence for an annual fair (Lewis 1837, Vol. 2, 646).

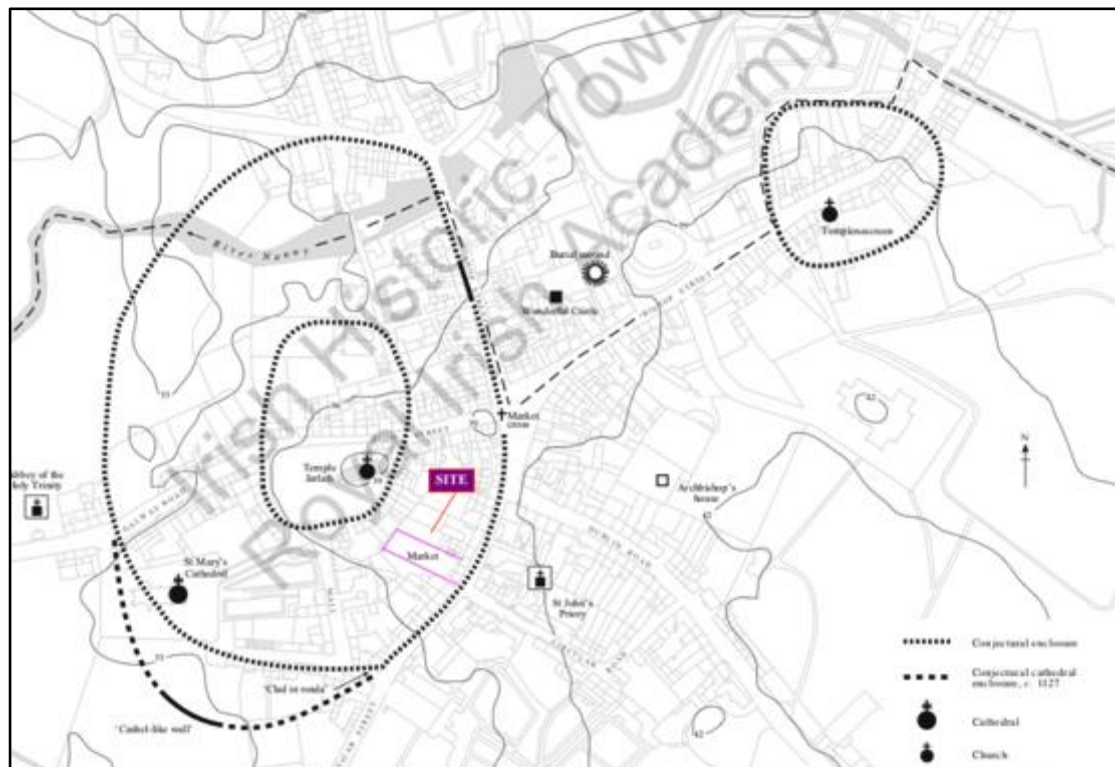


Fig. 4: Medieval Tuam (Extract from Irish Historic Town Atlas 20: Tuam) with site location indicated.

The arrival of the Anglo-Normans had only a slight impact on the town as the O'Connor patronage continued into the thirteenth century with the construction of St Mary's Cathedral and the rebuilding of St Jarlath's. Tuam prospered as an ecclesiastical centre in the 13th century focused around the enclosures of Temple Jarlath and Templenascreen that may have contained the residence of the bishop and the guesthouse. The enclosures were situated on a low ridge to the south of the ford on the River Nanny. Two high crosses stood close by- one marking the site of a market place. Between the enclosures was a military fortification while a mill was located on the river bank. The priory of Saint John was located south-east of St. Jarlath's and the Romanesque cathedral to south-west while a third ecclesiastical enclosure, known as Tobar Jarlath was located c. 800m to the south-east. St Mary's Cathedral incorporates the remains of the earlier churches in its fabric, with a barrel-vaulted chancel and triple light east window dating to 1170.

Little is known of Tuam in the later medieval period, but it seems to have survived in to the sixteenth century as a small nucleated settlement. The English conquest of Connacht and the influx of Protestant settlers in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries marks a turning point in the history of the settlement. In 1613 it became a borough and subsequently received its charter of incorporation from James I. The borough appears to have overseen the development of the town as a commercial centre. For the following two centuries the population increased and the street pattern developed. According to Gosling (1995, 129) 'the principal feature of the new layout was the triangular Market Square from which five streets radiated. These included two completely new streets, High Street and Shop Street, the former of which cut through the old monastic enclosure of Temple Jarlath, while the latter sloped down hill to a new bridge across the River Nanny, eclipsing the old crossing point further downstream... Finally, to the south ran Dublin Road and Vicar Street. The eighteenth century saw the arrival of Archbishop Synge and the borough saw the development of tanneries and mills. By the late 18th century Tuam was a prosperous town and it is to this period that many of the finer buildings date.

Markets played a very important role in the history of Tuam as evident by the 13th-century grant of a licence to the Archbishop of Tuam for the holding of a market. Higgins (1992) recorded an extensive cobbled area to the south of St. Mary's

Cathedral that he considered may have been the site of the medieval market place that was subsequently moved to The Square in the 17th century. The map of medieval Tuam, as depicted in the Irish Historic Town Atlas 20 (Fig.), indicates the proposed development site as the location of a market and the area is recorded in the ordnance survey maps as the site of a Turf market. Claffey's 1839 reconstruction map of Tuam (Fig. 5) records the area as the site of the original market and the location of the pedestal of the original market cross (Claffey 2001).

The Railway

The Dublin to Galway railway line was completed in 1851 and it was assumed that its extension to Mayo would follow the traditional route through Tuam. However the main line was routed from Athlone to Westport, with Tuam connected via a branch line to Athenry and later (1894) to Claremorris. The Tuam railway station opened in 1860 on site of former barrack square. The railway Station is described in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage appraisal as 'a handsome villa-style building probably by J.S. Mulvany who designed doorcases similar to this one in other locations. It is a fine building in the tradition of railway architecture and is enhanced by the retention of most of its original fabric and details. The water tank is also a good structure in the engineering tradition'.

Cartographic Study

The 1st edition ordnance survey 6-inch map indicate the area of the railway station in open ground to the immediate east of the townland boundary with Townparks. Claffey's 1839 reconstruction map of Tuam records the railway station on the site of a former barrack square. Both the 25 inch ordnance survey map of 1890 and the 3rd edition ordnance survey map indicate the railway buildings on the site, as they remain today.



Fig. 5: Extract from 1st edition (1838) Ordnance Survey map.



Fig. 6: Detail of 1st ed. O.S. map overlying recent aerial photo.

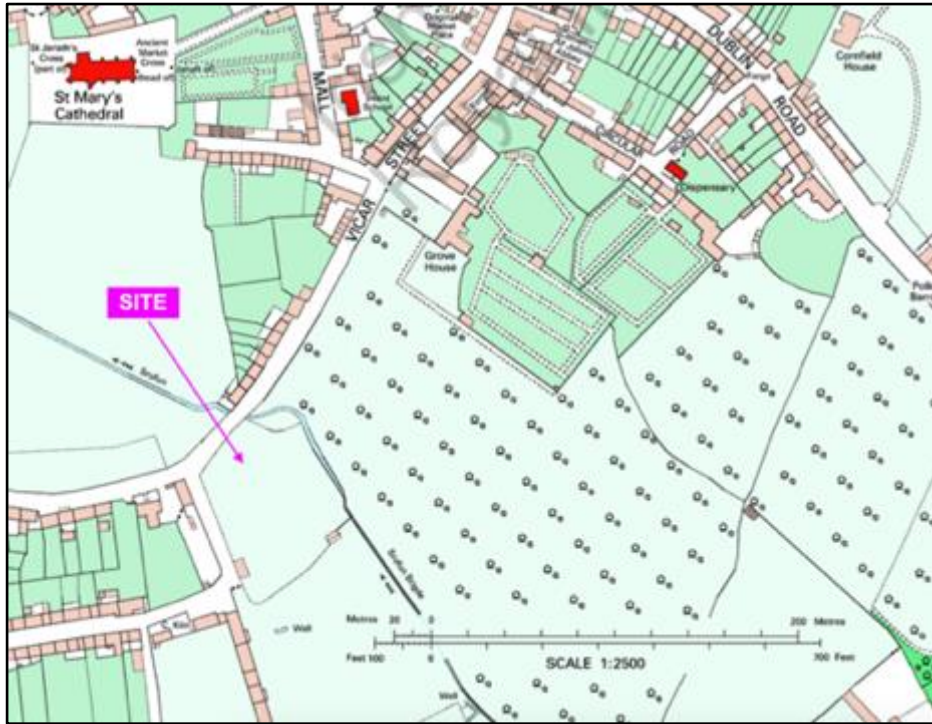


Fig. 7: Claffey's 1839 reconstruction map of Tuam (Claffey 2001).

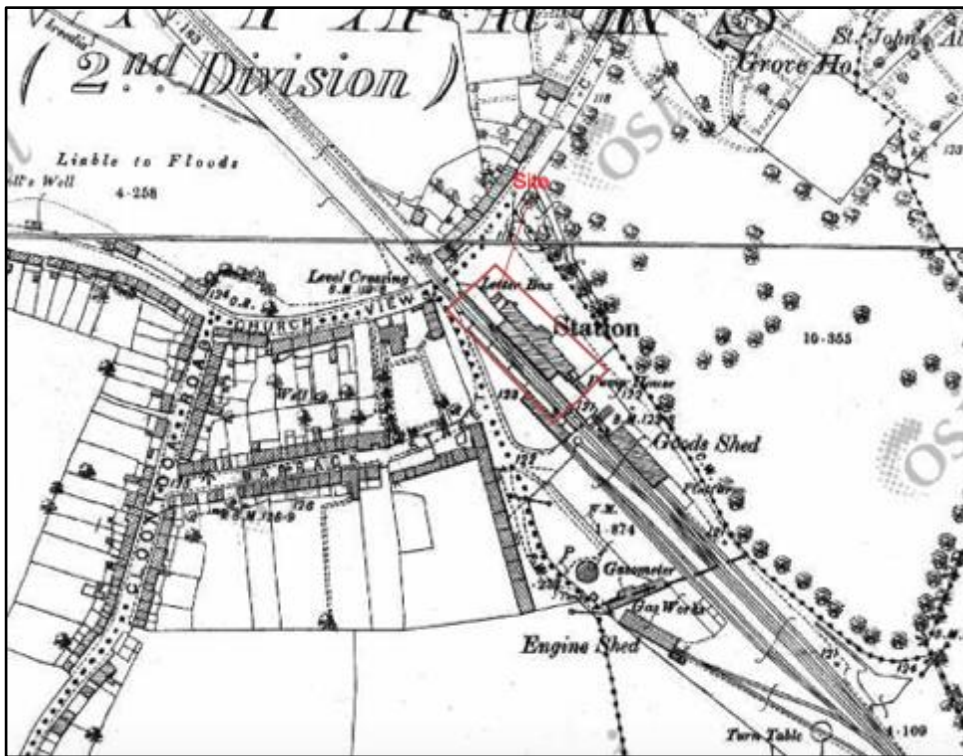


Fig. 8: Extract from 25-inch OS Map.

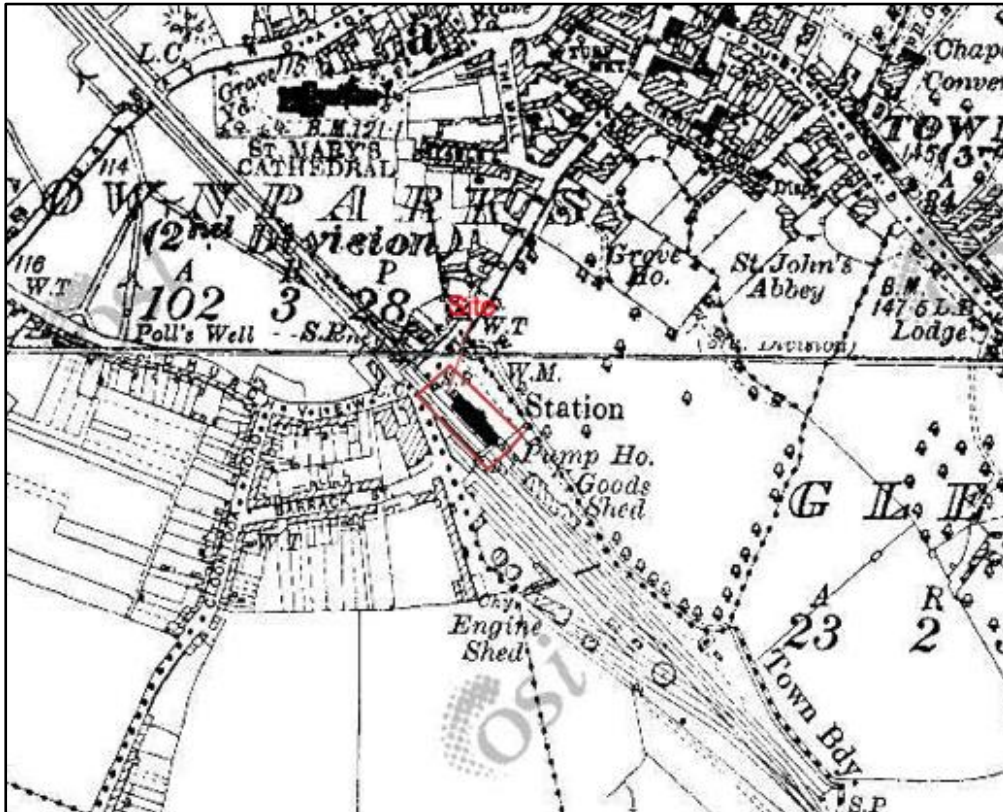


Fig. 9: Extract from third edition OS map indicating the location.

RECORDED MONUMENTS IN VICINITY OF THE DEVELOPMENT

No recorded monuments are directly impacted by the proposed development. The closest recorded monument is the site of a corn drying kiln (GA043-126), located c. 70m south west of the existing buildings. The existing railway building is located in the south of Tuam town and c. 150m outside the zone of significance surrounding the historic town of Tuam (GA029-173). The location of recorded monuments surrounding the proposed development site are indicated in the figure 10 and table 1.

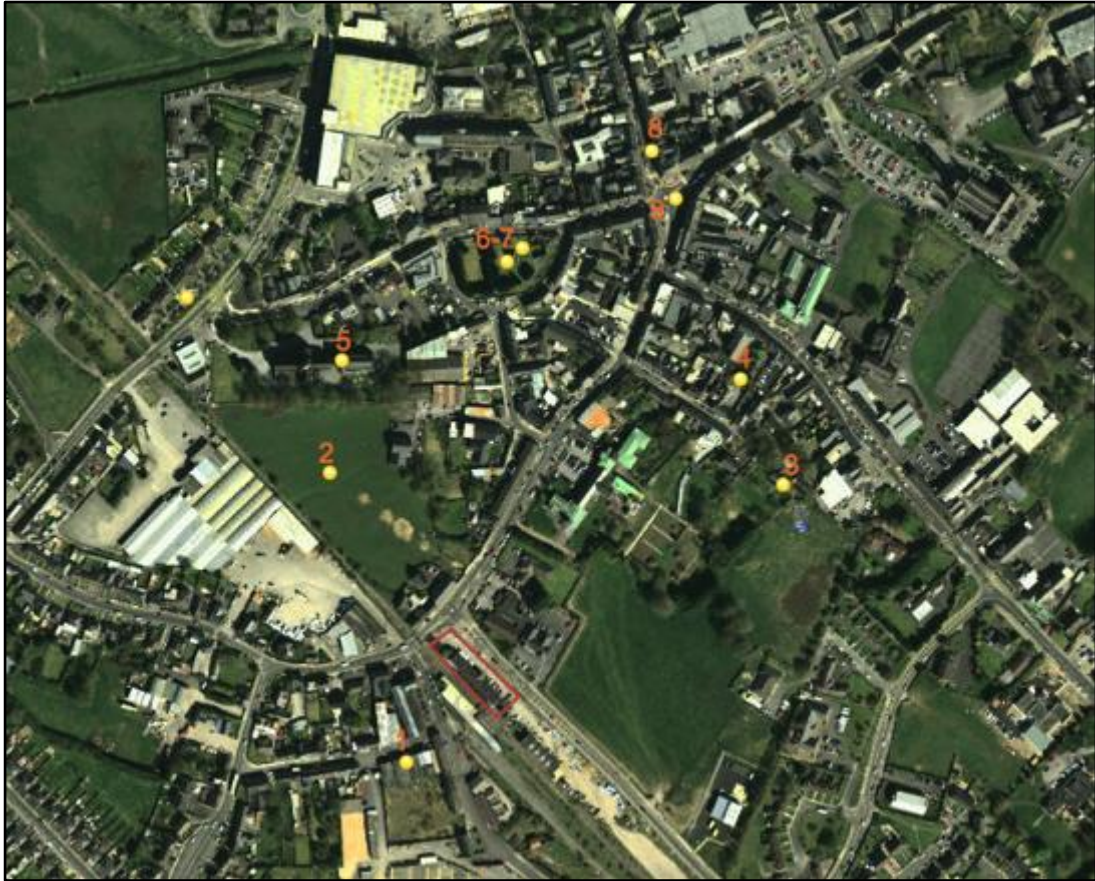


Fig. 10: Aerial view indicating recorded monuments in the vicinity of the development.

Site No.	RMP No.	Monument Type	Distance
1	GA043-126	Kiln (Corn Drying)	70m
2	GA029-179011	Ecclesiastical Enclosure	150m
3	GA029-185	House	265m
4	GA029-184001	Religious House	290m
4a	GA029-184002	High Cross	290m
5	GA029-179001	Cathedral	225m
5a	GA029-179007	High Cross	225m
5a	GA029-179004	High Cross	225m
5c	GA029-179005	High Cross	225m
5d	GA029-179006	High Cross	225m
6	GA029-180003	Ecclesiastical Enclosure	290m
7	GA029-180002	Graveyard	300m
8	GA029-173	Castle	400m

9	GA029-173	Historic Town	150m outside zone of significance
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Table 1: Details of monuments in the area.

RECORDED STRUCTURES IN THE AREA

Known architectural heritage assets in the vicinity of the proposed development are listed below and shown in Figure 11. The proposed works are located outside the Town Centre Architectural Conservation Area.

The existing railway building is a protected structures and is recorded in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) where it is described as a 'Detached nine-bay single-storey railway station, built c.1880, five-bay central section with projecting gable-fronted porch, flanked by slightly recessed two-bay sections. Now in commercial use. Pitched slate roof with six ashlar limestone chimneystacks, and wide eaves with carved timber brackets. Painted rendered walls, front elevation having rusticated limestone raised quoins to all corners, and cut limestone skirting. Square-headed window openings with limestone sills and two-over-two pane timber sliding sash windows, except for westernmost opening which is replacement timber. Latter opening formerly doorway, with moulded limestone surround. Square-headed doorway having cut limestone doorcase with impost, plinths and brackets supporting heavy cornice, glazed timber panelled double-leaf doors and plain overlight, and approached by limestone steps with metal rails. Platform façade of building obscured by modern additions. To east is cast-iron water tank signed 'B GRAHAM WATERFORD', standing on limestone base built of large blocks of roughly finished limestone, some with natural vermiculation, and rusticated raised quoins on corners and on central round-headed arch'.

Seven structures are recorded in the general vicinity of the development site. Four of the structures are within the former railway site and include the railway station, goods store, platform and footbridge. The other three structures recorded in the vicinity include two public houses and the Tuam Cathedral.



Fig. 11: Map indicating site (red) with Protected structures (orange dot) and structures in NIAH (pink dot) in area of proposed development.

No.	Structure Type	NIAH Ref.	Protect Structure
1	Railway Station	30331045	Yes
2	Public House	30331053	Yes
3	Platform	30331046	
4	Footbridge	30331041	
5	Goods store	30331047	
6	Cathedral	30331025	Yes
7	Public House	30331028	

Table 2: Detail of Protected Structures and structures recorded in NIAH.

FINDS FROM THE AREA

The find spots of artefacts are important contributors to the knowledge of the archeological landscape and an important indicator of human activity. The topographical files indicated no finds from the site of the development. There are numerous finds recorded from the town of Tuam some of which were recovered during archaeological monitoring and excavations (detailed in 'Previous Archaeological work') within the town and immediate surrounds. The following are a sample of artefacts recovered from the general area.

Townparks 4th Division

Reg.1935:427

Object Type: Bronze Spearhead

Abbey Trinity

Reg.1932:6503

Object Type: Stone Lamp, Fragment

Reg: 1954:65

Object Type: Bronze Pin

PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

Archaeological pre-development testing and monitoring has been undertaken in various locations throughout the town, mainly in advance of development projects. Archaeological work undertaken to the north of the proposed development site has uncovered substantial archaeological remains. Archaeological monitoring of the insertion of railings around the church in Temple Jarlath was undertaken by Jerry O'Sullivan of the National Roads Authority in 2001 (O'Sullivan 2001). One *in situ* skeleton was uncovered, as well as the disarticulated remains of another three individuals. Archaeological monitoring and subsequent excavations along Saw Pit Lane were undertaken by Finn Delaney in 2010 and described as follows. "The remains of 15 individuals were recorded and excavated along with a series of ditches and pits. A stone culvert and the remains of a boundary wall were also identified. Two of the skeletons and a bone fragment from the base of one of the ditches returned calibrated radiocarbon dates centring on the seventh century. In addition a smithing hearth cake typical of early iron smithing was recovered from the upper fill of the ditch along with a bone trial motif piece which has sixth/seventh century parallels. The other pits and ditches had fills containing relatively mixed finds and animal bone fragments. The excavated features are located outside the present Temple Jarlath enclosure in the middle of Tuam and close to the site of the early medieval market area and the site of the post-medieval shambles. The pits may have acted as refuse pits for waste and the ditches may have demarcated areas or being used as open drains. The early burial evidence and the early possible enclosing ditch coupled with reports of an early unclassified cross slab suggest that the graveyard and enclosure at Temple Jarlath may be associated with St Jarlath's original early Christian foundation" Delaney F. 2012 'Sawpit Lane, Tuam, Co. Galway Early medieval graveyard and enclosure, Eachtra Journal, Issue 16, 2012.

A summary of some other relevant archaeological projects in the town are included below. Archaeologist Miriam Clyne directed archaeological excavations at St. Mary's Cathedral and summarised as follows (1986, 28).

"As a condition of planning permission, the area of a proposed extension at St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam, was excavated. The excavation, of eleven weeks' duration, was funded by St Mary's Restoration Fund. An area 7.30m x 8.50m, adjoining both the north wall of the Gothic choir, built c. 1300, and the east wall of a later structure, formerly the Chapter Room, was excavated. A foundation course, built of rough mortared masonry with large stones on the outer faces and a rubble core, was uncovered. This provided a footing for the east wall of the Chapter Room and abutted onto the foundations of the north-west buttress of the Gothic choir which it apparently post-dates. The foundation course was only partially revealed and measured 6.70m long and c. 1.60m wide. An enigmatic feature, consisting of three connecting low dry-stone walls, was revealed close to the eastern and northern boundaries of the site. An irregularly-shaped gravel area was delimited by two walls.

Thirty-eight articulated human skeletons, complete or partially disturbed, were also found, indicating that it was part of a graveyard. All the skeletons were supine and the orientation was predominantly E-W, with the head to the west. Burial was in unmarked pits and a variety of ages were represented. Skeletons were disturbed by successive burials, and by the construction of the Gothic choir and the stone foundation course, indicating that the graveyard was in use before 1300. Eight of the burials were of later date.

The bulk of the finds consisted of potsherds, glass fragments and iron nails. The pottery included a few sherds of 13th-/14th-century, green glazed ware, from the Saintonge area, imported late medieval pottery, imported 17th-century ware, and also a late medieval strap-handle, probably from a cooking pot, which was produced locally. (I am grateful to R. O Floinn and M. Dunlevy for help in identifying the pottery.). The most interesting discoveries were two scallop shells, each with a pair of perforations for attachment to the wearer's apparel. One shell was in situ on a skeleton. Their presence in the graveyard indicates that two of the deceased went on pilgrimage to the shrine of Saint James the Greater at Compostela, in Galicia, north-west Spain. Santiago de Compostela was a major pilgrimage shrine from the 11th century onwards and pilgrims brought back as a memento scallop shells, the emblem of Saint James (www.excavations.ie).

Archaeologist Jim Higgins 1992:096 uncovered an Early Christian medieval and post-medieval complex.

The dig took place in a field located between Vicar St on one side and the grounds of St Mary's Church of Ireland Cathedral (which is set back some distance from the Galway Rd.) on the other. Before excavation it was obvious that a series of banks and ditches, some low mounds, drains and earthworks were present. A large arc of what was presumed to be an Early Christian ecclesiastical enclosure running from the grounds of the Cathedral in the direction of Tuam Mart was also apparent. There was local knowledge of a feature called Srufan Bride, St Brigid's Stream which was said to connect up with St Jarlath's Well, or Tober Jarlath nearby. Furthermore the local name for the area was An Clam, a name which is suggestive of boards, planks, stakes, sticks, wattles, or a togher. Pottery was also said to have been made in the vicinity as well as at Killaloonty nearby. Excavation along a 2m-wide trench running most of the length of the field produced evidence of a cobbled surface or surfaces over an area of several hundred sq. m. It was cut across in places by a late stone-lined field drain and the 19th-century garden plot to the rear of houses in Vicar St had destroyed some of the cobbling. The cobbled surface had been parched in some places and dug into in others and extended both within and without a thick cashel-like wall which had been substantially robbed out. This enclosing feature had been reduced to a mound of earth and small stones on which only a short segment of the outer facing of large stones survived. The facing was, however, discernable in the field to either side of the excavated area. This large enclosing wall had been robbed out in the late medieval or post-medieval period. The cobbled surface post-dated the robbed out enclosure. Among the finds made on its surface was a series of horseshoes. Some distance to the south of the robbed out wall was a U-shaped ditch. This was sectioned and it was clear that this too had been cobbled over along its sides and right into the ditch itself. Running at an angle across the site was a deep V-shaped canalised stream. This had been bridged over in one area for a short distance with lumps of pine, oak and yew. The bridge-like togher may have been robbed out over much of the length of the features. The sides of this stream had been lined for at least part of its length with branches and sticks. Some of these were up to 4m in length and one sample proved to be a log pole of yew with chop-marks at one end. The ditch clearly pre-dated the cobbled layer. There were 3 layers of rough cobbling overlying the V-shaped ditch and its 'bridge' of wood. The ditch produced a complex series of organic layers of bone, wood and portion of a small perforated amber bead. Some of the sticks which lay in the sides of the drain were narrow and wattle-like but only one or two apparently intertwined 'woven' pieces were found. Among the most interesting finds from the V-shaped drain was an enigmatic piece of worked wood of uncertain function. The V-shaped ditch was obviously deliberately cut, possibly on the site of a natural feature

and it would seem that this corresponds to the Srufan Bride which runs across the field, underneath houses in Vicar St and has been canalised in modern times beneath the garden of the Health Centre. It continues along the CIE property alongside the railway line in the direction of Tober Jarlath, a well to which there used to be a large pilgrimage until it was blocked up in the 19th century.

The ditch which ran some distance outside the robbed-out boundary of the ecclesiastical enclosure also produced very large quantities of bone. The enclosing feature was unusual in that it was not completely stone-built. The outer face was stone-faced but the core seems to have been of earth and small stones and the inner face was a sloping embankment and was faced with small stones embedded at an angle in the inside face of the feature. The wall may have been robbed out to build the present enclosing wall around the medieval Cathedral.

The cobbled surface would seem to relate to the 13th-century grant of a licence to the Archbishop of Tuam for the holding of a market at Tuam. This market was subsequently moved to The Square in the 17th century. It was clear that the cobbled surface had been in use over a long period and that the ditch outside the enclosure and the V-shaped drain may have had a role in keeping the place clean. Generally the cobbled surface was overlaid by deposits containing much bone. The cobbling in many areas overlay a dark organic layer containing oyster shell and bone and in many areas the undulating ground beneath had been levelled up with boulders and re-deposited boulder clay. Some stone settings, areas of re-deposited yellow daub, depressions and hollows cut across and underlay the cobbled surface. Two small mounds which were also excavated produced 19th-century builders' rubble, clay pipes and worked stone dating to the refurbishment of the Cathedral in the 1860s and 1870s. Beneath these were several much earlier ditches.

Finds included Saintonge pottery – probably of a late type, a lug from a Saintonge chafing dish of 16th/17th century-type and fragments of a somewhat earlier lobed cup of the same fabric. Local copies of imported wares and products of the Killalobony or more local kilns were also found. Lumps of potters clay also suggest that the tradition of pottery being made in the area is correct. Among the later material were Buckley type wares, North Devon Gravel Tempered wares and a variety of local wares with an orange fabric. Some sherds of Spanish olive jars were also found. The subsequent finding of a pottery kiln by Ann Connolly in excavations in High Street, nearby is of interest since a comparison of the post-medieval ceramics from the area can now be made. The other finds included quern fragments and a fragment of a possible trough quern, a variety of 17th-early 20th-century clay pipes, a pipe clay wig curler, some ridge tile fragments, lumps of stone and mortar from a destroyed building, a group of

6 horseshoes showing a variety of medieval to early modern forms, modern pottery and red brick marbles and some iron slag. Also found were iron staples, nails and washers. An 18th-century cartwheel penny from the Bristol Mint was also found. Large quantities of bone and some oyster shell were recovered from throughout the site.

The whole field is extremely rich in archaeological deposits and deserves to be studied in further detail. A carved Romanesque architectural fragment which was found elsewhere in the field has been deposited in the Cathedral for safekeeping. The excavation report is to be published by the Crow's Rock Press, Galway in the near future (www.excavations.ie).

1992:097

Archaeologist Ann Connolly monitored excavations associated with in Tuam Co. Galway that continued into 1993. It followed the line of the proposed sewerage pipe through 3 archaeologically-sensitive areas in the town, in advance of the actual pipe laying. For the most part there were no finds of an archaeological nature. The areas highlighted as being sensitive had suffered much disturbance as a result of services installation and land reclamation. In the area immediately north of Gilligans Arch, off High St a post-medieval pottery kiln was uncovered. The kiln was constructed of hand-made red brick, with a small, retaining wall of limestone at its southern end. It survives to a maximum height of 0.65m and measures 3.9m north-south and 1.74m east-west. The proximity of the kiln to the arch and more especially, to the wall on the west side of it, made it impossible to excavate completely, though the east side of the kiln was thoroughly investigated. Excavations revealed the kiln wall was only 200mm thick and there was redeposited clay and stones packed against it on the east side. This suggests the surviving portion of the kiln was built into the old ground surface. Excavation under the kiln show that its northern portion was built directly onto bedrock. The kiln was removed completely, brick by brick, and it is hoped to reconstruct it in the grounds of the Mill Museum, Tuam.

95E0084

Richard Crumlish undertook excavations as part of a contract along the route of a water pipeline, part of the Tuam Regional Water Supply Scheme. The work was carried out between 26 April and 30 May 1995, by the Archaeological Services Unit, UCG, for Galway County Council. The site consisted of a destroyed enclosure, located in Townparks (1st Division) townland, situated to the north-west of Tuam town, where the proposed pipeline corridor cut through the eastern half of the site. Only the western half of the site was marked on the 1st edition of the 6" OS map. No trace of the

monument was visible above ground. Eight trenches were manually opened within the pipeline corridor to investigate the site. Three of these were excavated across the full width of the corridor. A further two trenches were opened across the conjectured line of the enclosing element at its northern and southern extremities. The trenches revealed a semicircular ditch, 2.7-3.1m in width and 1.3-1.6m in depth, with steep sides and a slightly rounded base. The top of the external side of the ditch was located outside the eastern limit of the pipeline corridor in two of the three trenches excavated across the full corridor. The ditch was filled by disturbed material containing modern artefacts, redeposited natural subsoil, clays and loams with some charcoal and bone. The redeposited natural subsoil fill could be the remains of a bank feature, of which very little remained. It was barely visible in two of the trenches, just over 0.2m high, and not visible at all in the other three. In the north-eastern quadrant of the site an entrance feature was uncovered. It measured 2.3m long, 5m wide and over 1.5m high above the base of the ditch on either side. The final three trenches were opened to fully explore this feature. It was orientated east-north-east by west-south-west and its north-north-west side was faced by a number of rocks set in the natural subsoil, into which the entrance feature was cut. The rocks averaged 0.25m x 0.25m in size. A ditch running north-north-east to south-south-west across the interior of the site, along the western limit of the pipeline corridor, was deemed to be of more recent construction. No other features were uncovered within the interior of the site.

11E0005

Excavation and monitoring by archaeologist Finn Delaney were undertaken on behalf of Galway County Council within the construction footprint of a proposed new road development linking Shop Street to Bishop's Street in Tuam, Co. Galway. Excavation was undertaken in August 2011 at the western end of the new road in order to record the subsurface remains of the protected structure known as Garvey's Mills (RPS 31). Subsurface remains of an industrial mill building were uncovered. An early mill building and mill-race were later subsumed into a larger complex. At a later date a yard was created by extending two culverts below the main mill building and by adding a culvert to the tail-race of the later mill. Monitoring of groundworks for the entire road scheme and associated site works was carried out from late July to early November 2011. The groundworks involved the removal of topsoil within the area of the road scheme (to formation level) and the excavation of associated service trenches and site works. The topsoil was removed in all cases to formation level of the road, which was cut into the subsoil. The excavation of the service trenches also cut the subsoil. The enabling

works to place the culverts at the eastern and western ends of the route required excavation below bedrock level.

LiDAR SURVEY

The area of the proposed grid connection route is not included in the LiDAR survey information available on the open topographical data viewer that provides access to processed LiDAR data in raster format from

- Geological Survey Ireland,
- Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht,
- Discovery Programme,
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland,
- New York University,
- The Office of Public Works,
- Galway County Council

No features of archaeological significance are visible on this imagery in the area of the proposed development.

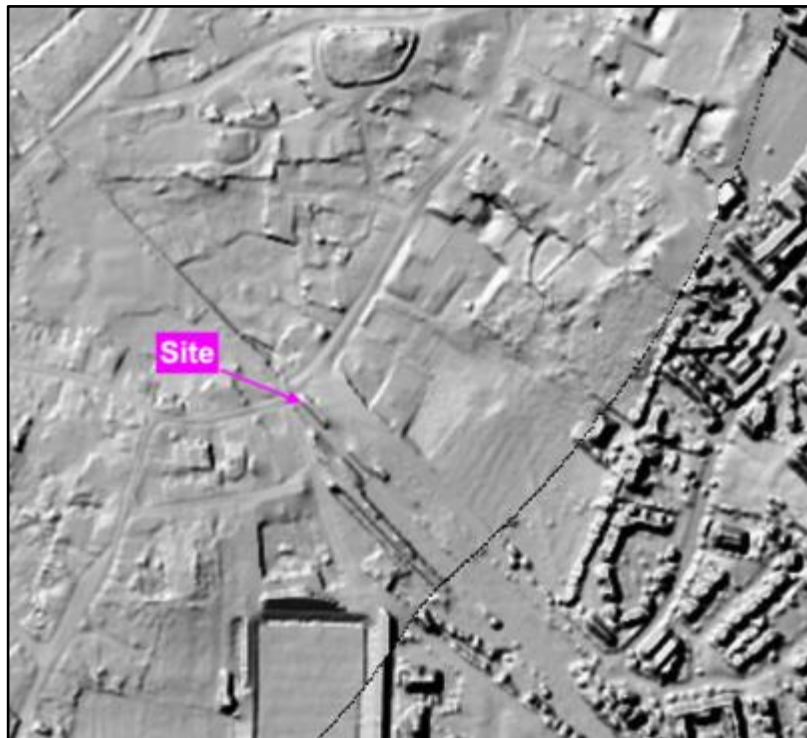


Fig. 12: Extract from LiDAR survey.

SITE VISIT

A site inspection was carried out in February 2025. The purpose of the inspection was to undertake a visual examination of the site to assess the potential impacts on known and unknown archaeological and cultural heritage assets. The site continues as a disused railway platform and associated buildings. The proposed development involves alterations to the most northerly building at the station, located to the immediate south of Vicar Street. The development site includes the associated platform immediately west of the building, the existing water tank located immediately south-east of the building and the area of parking to the immediate east of the railway building.



Plate 1: View of railway station building from the SE.



Plate 2: View of railway building from the N.



Plate 3: View of railway building, platform and track from the NW.



Plate 4: Tank located to the immediate SE of the station building. Taken from the E.

The railway building is a protected structure No. 52 and recorded in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (Reg. No. 30331045) where it is described as a “detached nine-bay single-storey railway station, built c.1880, five-bay central section with projecting gable-fronted porch, flanked by slightly recessed two-bay sections. Now

in commercial use. Pitched slate roof with six ashlar limestone chimneystacks, and wide eaves with carved timber brackets. Painted rendered walls, front elevation having rusticated limestone raised quoins to all corners, and cut limestone skirting. Square-headed window openings with limestone sills and two-over-two pane timber sliding sash windows, except for westernmost opening which is replacement timber. Latter opening formerly doorway, with moulded limestone surround. Square-headed doorway having cut limestone doorcase with impost, plinths and brackets supporting heavy cornice, glazed timber panelled double-leaf doors and plain overlight, and approached by limestone steps with metal rails. Platform façade of building obscured by modern additions. To east (S) is cast-iron water tank signed 'B GRAHAM WATERFORD', standing on limestone base built of large blocks of roughly finished limestone, some with natural vermiculation, and rusticated raised quoins on corners and on central round-headed arch”.

The building was more recently utilised as a commercial space and has for a number of years been left idle. The openings are now all blocked up and the internal space in need of considerable repair. Entrance to the building is via a centrally placed doorway in the east that gives access to the former waiting room, ticket booth area. This rectangular room has modern fittings. A double doorway in the west leads to a long narrow corridor orientated NW-SE that allows access to all 12 rooms in the building. The proposed development will see the demolition of the western wall of the corridor and the construction of a glazed corridor facing onto the platform.



Plate 5: Former waiting room/ticket booth.

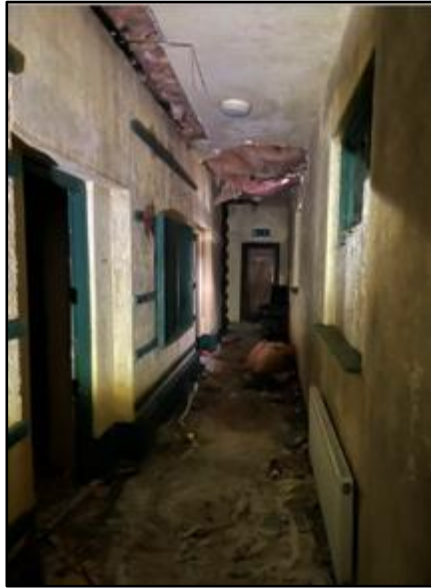


Plate 6: Narrow corridor running NW-SE on W side of building.

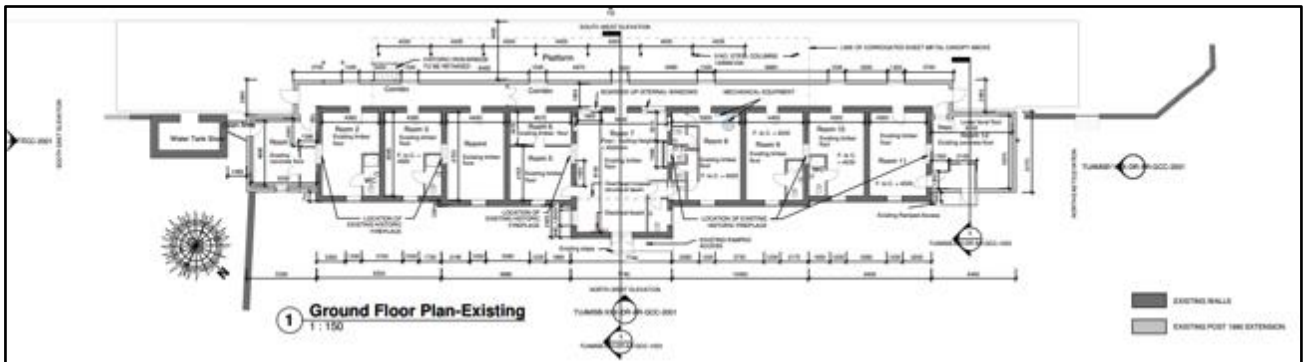


Fig. 13: Plan of existing structure.

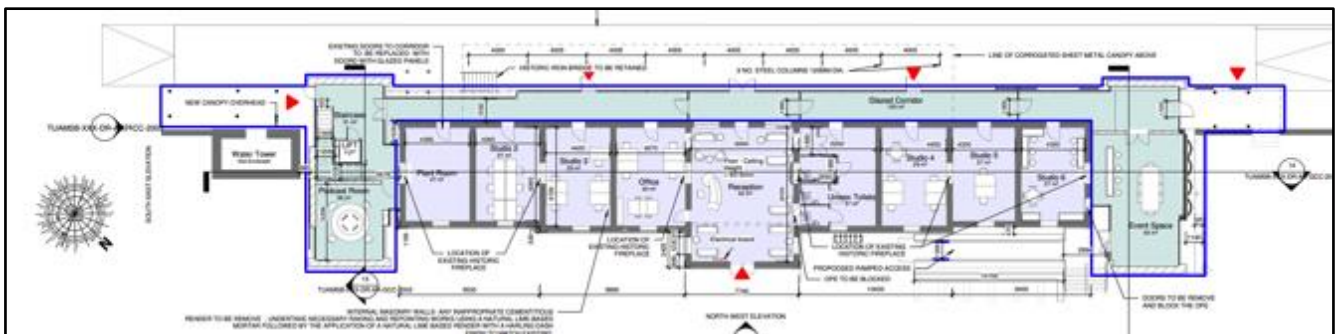


Fig. 14: Plan of the proposed works.

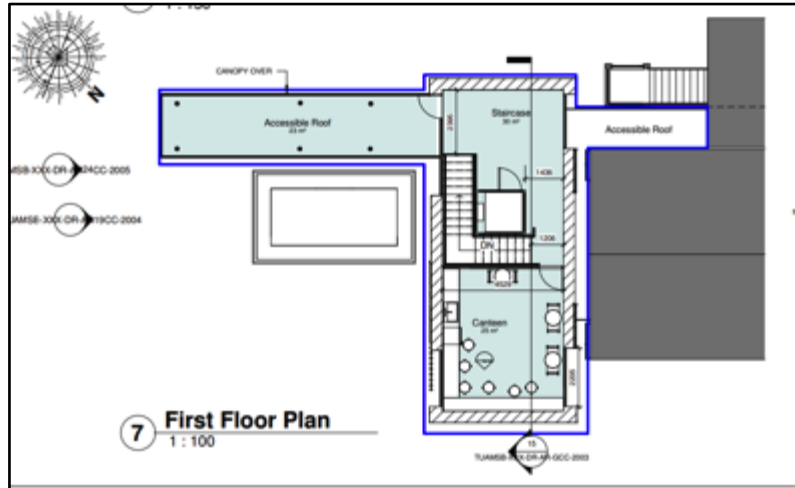


Fig. 15: Proposed first floor plan.

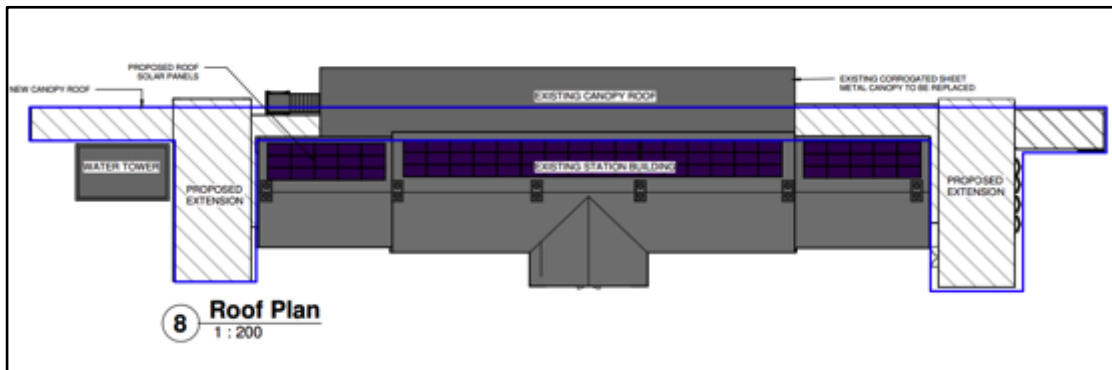


Fig. 16: Proposed plan of roof level.



Figs. 17 & 18: Existing building elevations.

The existing rooms in the building are small rectangular areas in various states of disrepair with modern fixtures and fittings. The originally rooms would have functioned as offices, work rooms and toilets associated with the operation of the station. It is proposed that the majority of the rooms retain their form and are renovated as part of the development where they will be utilised as studios and upgraded toilet facilities. The proposed development will see changes to the existing structure at both the NW and SE ends. At the NW end it is proposed to demolish the existing recessed section of the building and construct a new extension to facilitate an event space. At the SE end it is proposed to develop a two storey extension to accommodate a podcast room and stairway at ground floor level with a canteen at first floor level with access to roof level. A free-standing canopy will be located on the platform side of the water tower while a glazed canopy will extend along the platform side of the building. Both areas of the proposed development at the NW and SE ends of the building are slightly recessed from the main structure.



Fig. 19: Proposed elevation at NW.



Fig. 20: Proposed elevation at SE.

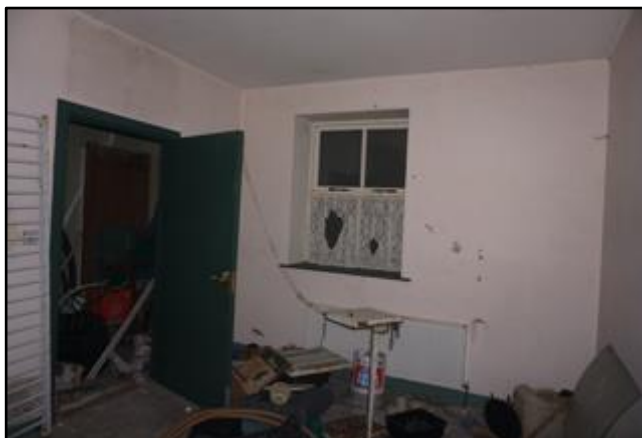


Plate 7: Room 1 at SE end of building.



Plates 8 & 9: Room 2 & Room 10.



Plate 10: Room 4.



Plate 11: Room 11.



Plate 12: Room 12.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposed works involves the change of use from former commercial uses to office and event space. Demolition of internal and external elements to provide new office space and welfare facilities, and new glazed connecting walkway. New single storey extension to accommodate an event space and a two storey extension to facilitate a podcast room and canteen, with new fully accessible entrance area. New hard and soft landscaping and all ancillary site works.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS & MITIGATION

Impacts can be assessed based on the detailed information on the project, the nature of the area affected and the range of resources potentially affected.

Archaeology

Works associated with the development at the site will not directly impact on any upstanding monuments. As outlined above, the proposed works are outside the historical town of Tuam. The existing railway station buildings, platforms and associated structures are located on the site of a former barrack square. While the previous development at the site has probably resulted in considerable ground disturbance there is always a potential for previously unrecorded subsurface archaeology to be revealed in the area of the proposed works.

Architectural Heritage

The proposed development is located outside the Town Centre Architectural Conservation Area. The existing station building is a protected structure (No. 52) and is recorded in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (Reg. 30331045). The proposal would see the re-use of the historical building on the outskirts of the town and is in line with the various policies of Galway County Council to acknowledge and promote awareness of the origins, historical development and cultural heritage of the town and to generally support high quality developments that relate to local heritage and to ensure that new development respects and is responsive of its local context. The proposal would also be in line with the objective of the council to ensure the protection and sympathetic enhancement of protected structures.

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 town and will ensure the continued use of a historic building that has great cultural heritage significance to the town and surrounding area.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The sympathetic development of the existing railway building is positive and generally respects the archaeological, historical and cultural heritage value of the site. No significant impacts are predicted on upstanding recorded monuments as a result of the proposed works. The existing railway station building is a protected structure and recorded in the National Inventory of architectural heritage. A separate report on the architectural significance of the building and the proposed changes by a conservation architect will accompany the application.

Licensed archaeological monitoring of all ground disturbance associated with the development is recommended. This is particularly relevant along the route of any underground services and ground disturbance in the area of the existing car park to the immediate east of the railway station building.

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.

PLEASE NOTE...

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

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