

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
OF THE PROPOSED  
ROSCOMMON EASTERN URBAN REALM  
IMPROVEMENT SCHEME,  
COUNTY ROSCOMMON**

**ON BEHALF OF  
ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL**

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## DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

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## ABSTRACT

This report has been prepared on behalf of Roscommon County Council, to study the impact, if any, on the archaeological and historical resource of the proposed Roscommon Eastern Urban Realm Improvement Scheme, County Roscommon (Figure 1). The report was undertaken by Jacqui Anderson of IAC Archaeology.

The proposed development area is located in Roscommon Town, along the Circular Road, Athlone Road, Goff Street, Church Street and Henry Street. It lies partially within the zone of archaeological potential (ZAP) for the historic town of Roscommon (RO039-043). Two recorded monuments are known within the footprint of the proposed development area, a gatehouse (RO039-043004) and a crucifixion plaque (RO039-043005). Sub-surface structural remains of the medieval town wall and gate house have been identified at the junction of Main Street and Goff Street during two recent archaeological investigations c. 0.2m below the road tarmac (Walsh 2022, Licence 19E0428ext.; Coughlan 2021, Ministerial Consent C001003 E005306).

This section of gatehouse (RO039-043004) and town wall are the only surviving evidence of the medieval town defences recorded to date and are considered to have National Monument status. These structural elements have been preserved *in-situ* c. 0.2m below the modern street level within the northern perimeter of the proposed development area (Figure 5) and as such this area has high sensitivity. Groundworks associated with the proposed development, such as excavation for services or tree planting that extend below the modern road levels, have the potential to negatively impact these important sub-surface remains. As such all groundworks in the vicinity of the medieval gate house and walls (RO039-043004), should be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

Additionally, there may be an adverse impact on previously unrecorded archaeological features or deposits that have the potential to survive beneath the current road surface, particularly within the ZAP for the historic town (RO039-043). This will be caused by ground disturbances associated with the proposed development, such as excavation for services or tree planting that extend below the modern road levels. All ground works within the ZAP for the historic town, that extend below the level of the modern road surface, should be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

Archaeological monitoring should be carried out under Ministerial Consent. If any features of archaeological potential are discovered during the course of the works further archaeological mitigation may be required, such as preservation *in-situ* or by record. Any further mitigation will require approval from the National Monuments Service of the DoHLGH.

There is no predicted impact to the crucifixion plaque (RO039-043005) by the proposed development and no mitigation is required.

**Please note that all recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service of the Heritage and Planning Division, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.**

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 GENERAL

The following report details an archaeological assessment undertaken in advance of a proposed Roscommon Eastern Urban Realm Improvement Scheme which will include Circular Road, Athlone Road, Goff Street, Church Street and Henry Street in Roscommon (Figure 1). This assessment has been carried out to ascertain the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological and historical resource that may exist within the area. The assessment was undertaken by Jacqui Anderson of IAC Archaeology (IAC), on behalf of Roscommon County Council.

The archaeological assessment involved a detailed study of the archaeological and historical background of the proposed development site and the surrounding area. This included information from the Record of Monuments and Places of County Roscommon, the topographical files within the National Museum and all available cartographic and documentary sources for the area. A field inspection has also been carried out with the aim to identify any previously unrecorded features of archaeological or historical interest.

## 1.2 THE DEVELOPMENT

It is proposed to carry out public realm improvement works (Figure 2) as part of the Roscommon County Council “putting the spokes back in the wheel project”, which will include the following;

- A new linear park and cycleways along Circular Road /N61 from the Lanesboro Street roundabout to the Athlone Road roundabout with additional controlled and uncontrolled crossing points,
- Demolition of the existing Library store building off Circular Road and redevelopment of the parking area adjacent to Roscommon Arts Centre
- Improved pedestrian connectivity from the N61 through the Car park at Tesco to Main Street
- Public realm and cycleway improvement works on Athlone Road and Broghans Lane
- Public realm and cycleway improvement works on Goff Street from Church Street to the N63 Junction
- Public realm improvement works on Church St from the junction with Goff Street to Abbey Street.
- Public Realm improvement works on Henry Street

## 2 METHODOLOGY

Research for this report was undertaken in two phases. The first phase comprised a paper survey of all available archaeological, historical and cartographic sources. The second phase involved a field inspection of the site.

### 2.1 PAPER SURVEY

- Record of Monuments and Places for County Roscommon;
- Sites and Monuments Record for County Roscommon;
- National Monuments in State Care Database;
- Preservation Orders List;
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographic and written sources relating to the study area;
- Roscommon County Development Plan (2022-2028);
- Roscommon Town Local Area Plan (2014-2020);
- Aerial photographs;
- Excavations Bulletin (1970–2022).

**Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)** is a list of archaeological sites known to the National Monuments Section, which are afforded legal protection under Section 12 of the 1994 National Monuments Act and are published as a record.

**Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)** holds documentary evidence and field inspections of all known archaeological sites and monuments. Some information is also held about archaeological sites and monuments whose precise location is not known e.g. only a site type and townland are recorded. These are known to the National Monuments Section as ‘un-located sites’ and cannot be afforded legal protection due to lack of locational information. As a result, these are omitted from the Record of Monuments and Places. SMR sites are also listed on a website maintained by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH) – [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie).

**National Monuments in State Care Database** is a list of all the National Monuments in State guardianship or ownership. Each is assigned a National Monument number whether in guardianship or ownership and has a brief description of the remains of each Monument.

The Minister for the DoHLGH may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian 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.



**Preservation Orders List** contains information on Preservation Orders and/or Temporary Preservation Orders, which have been assigned to a site or sites. Sites deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

**The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland** are the national archive of all known finds recorded by the National Museum. This archive relates primarily to artefacts but also includes references to monuments and unique records of previous excavations. The find spots of artefacts are important sources of information on the discovery of sites of archaeological significance.

**Cartographic sources** are important in tracing land use development within the development area as well as providing important topographical information on areas of archaeological potential and the development of buildings. Cartographic analysis of all relevant maps has been made to identify any topographical anomalies or structures that no longer remain within the landscape.

**Documentary sources** were consulted to gain background information on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage landscape of the proposed development area.

**Development Plans** contain a catalogue of all the Protected Structures and archaeological sites within the county. The Roscommon County Development Plan (2022-2028) and the Roscommon Town Local Area Plan (2014-2020) were consulted to obtain information on cultural heritage sites in and within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area.

**Aerial photographic coverage** is an important source of information regarding the precise location of sites and their extent. It also provides initial information on the terrain and its likely potential for archaeology. A number of sources were consulted including aerial photographs held by the Ordnance Survey and Google Earth.

**Excavations Bulletin** is a summary publication that has been produced every year since 1970. This summarises every archaeological excavation that has taken place in Ireland during that year up until 2010 and since 1987 has been edited by Isabel Bennett. This information is vital when examining the archaeological content of any area, which may not have been recorded under the SMR and RMP files. This information is also available online ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)) from 1970–2022.

## **2.2 FIELD INSPECTION**

Field inspection is necessary to determine the extent and nature of archaeological and historical remains, and can also lead to the identification of previously

unrecorded or suspected sites and portable finds through topographical observation and local information.

The archaeological field inspection entailed -

- Walking the proposed development and its immediate environs.
- Noting and recording the terrain type and land usage.
- Noting and recording the presence of features of archaeological or historical significance.
- Verifying the extent and condition of any recorded sites.
- Visually investigating any suspect landscape anomalies to determine the possibility of their being anthropogenic in origin.

## **3 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

### **3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The proposed development area is located in Roscommon Town, along the Circular Road, Athlone Road, Goff Street, Church Street and Henry Street. The proposed scheme lies within the townlands of Ardnanagh, Ballypheasan, Ardsallagh More and Cloonybeirne within the parish of Roscommon and Barony of Ballintober South. Roscommon town is well situated on relatively low-lying land in proximity to the Hind, Suck and Shannon Rivers as well as Lough Ree located on the Shannon.

The proposed development area lies partially within the zone of archaeological potential for the historic town of Roscommon (RO039-043, Figure 1). Two recorded monuments are located within the footprint of the proposed development area, a gatehouse (RO039-043004) and a crucifixion plaque (RO039-043005).

#### **3.1.1 Prehistoric Period**

##### **Mesolithic Period (c. 8000–4000 BC)**

Although possible evidence of Upper Palaeolithic human activity has been identified in the southwest of Ireland (Dowd and Carden 2016), the Mesolithic period is the earliest time for which there is clear evidence of prehistoric activity on the island of Ireland as a whole. During this period people hunted, foraged and gathered food and appear to have had a mobile lifestyle. The most common evidence indicative of Mesolithic activity at a site comprises of scatters of worked flint material; a by-product from the production of flint implements or rubbish middens consisting largely of shells (Stout and Stout 1997). The latter are commonly discovered in coastal regions or at the edge of lakes. Although it is likely that Lough Ree (c. 8km to the east) was used during this period as a food resource, there are no recorded evidence of Mesolithic activity within the vicinity of the proposed development area.

##### **Neolithic Period (4000–2500 BC)**

During the Neolithic period communities adopted agriculture as a way of life, though hunting, fishing and gathering continued to contribute to the Neolithic diet. This transition was accompanied by major social change. Agriculture demanded an altering of the physical landscape; forests were rapidly cleared and field boundaries constructed but it allowed the development of more permanent settlements as the need to migrate to exploit seasonal natural resources was no longer a key constraint on settlement. There was a greater concern for territory, which contributed to the emergence of the megalithic tomb tradition, large monumental stone burial sites, which are characteristic of the period. There are no recorded Neolithic sites within the vicinity of the proposed development area, though the area would have continued to be attractive to settlers during this period.

##### **Bronze Age (2500–800 BC)**

This period was marked by the widespread use of metal for the first time in Ireland. As with the transition from the earlier Mesolithic to Neolithic periods, the transition into

the early Bronze Age was accompanied by changes in society. The megalithic tomb tradition went into decline and ended and a focus on the individual in mortuary practice became typical. Cremated or inhumed bodies were often placed in a cist, which is a stone-lined grave, usually built of slabs set upright to form a box-like construction and capped by a large slab or several smaller lintels. There are no recorded Bronze Age sites within the vicinity of the proposed development area although a large cluster of funerary monuments (barrows and ringditches) are recorded in Carrownabrickna townland c. 2.7km to the northwest. Further evidence for Bronze Age activity in the wider area includes the domestic *fulachta fia* (RO039-094) recorded in Cloonybeirne c. 400m to the north of the proposed development area.

### **Iron Age (800 BC–AD 500)**

Compared to the rest of Irish prehistory there is very little evidence in Ireland, as a whole, representing the Iron Age. As in Europe, there are two phases of the Iron Age in Ireland; the Hallstatt and the La Tène. The Hallstatt period generally dates from 700 BC onwards and spread rapidly from Austria, across Europe, and then into Ireland. The later Iron Age or La Tène culture also originated in Europe during the middle of the 5th century BC. For several centuries La Tène populations were the dominant people in Europe, until they were finally overcome by the Roman Empire. There are no recorded Iron Age sites located within the vicinity of the proposed development area, although the area would have remained favourable to settlement throughout the prehistoric period.

#### **3.1.2 Early Medieval Period (AD 500–1100)**

The early medieval period is depicted in the surviving sources as entirely rural characterised by the basic territorial unit known as *túath*. Byrne (1973) estimates that there were at least 150 kings in Ireland at any given time during this period, each ruling over his own *túath*. During this sometimes-violent period, roughly circular defensive enclosures known as ringforts were constructed to protect farmsteads. Although most of the ringforts that have been excavated are shown to date to this period, some have earlier origins and may have been originally constructed during the Iron Age, or even earlier.

The ringfort or rath is considered to be the most common indicator of settlement during the early medieval period. One of the most recent studies of early medieval settlement enclosures has suggested that there is potential for at least 60,000 such sites to have existed on the island (O'Sullivan et al. 2014, 49). They are typically enclosed by an earthen bank and exterior ditch and range from 25m to 50m in diameter (Stout 1997, 15). The smaller sized and single banked type (univallate) were more likely to be home to the lower ranks of society while larger examples with more than one bank (bivallate / trivallate) housed the more powerful kings and lords.

The name Roscommon is derived from *Coman mac Faelchon*, the man attributed with establishing a monastery (RO039-043006) in the area during the 6th century. The monastery site lies c. 15m to the south of the proposed development area where it runs along Church Street. The woods near the monastery became known as Saint

Comán's Wood (*Ros Comáin*). St Comán, a disciple of St Finnian of Clonard, died in AD 549. The 'law of St Comán' was proclaimed over much of Connaught in AD 771, 779 and 792. The monastery may have been raided by the Vikings in AD 807 (Annals of Ulster) and it was burnt in AD 823 and again in AD 1134 (SMR file).

### 3.1.3 Medieval Period (AD 1100–1600)

The ruins of Roscommon Castle (RO039-043001, Nat. Mon. 181) are located on a hillside just outside the town, c. 546m north of the proposed development area in Cloonabrackna townland. The castle is quadrangular in shape and it had four corner D-shaped towers and twin towers at its entrance gateway, one of which still retains its immensely sturdy vaulted roof. The entire castle was enclosed by a curtain wall. It was built in 1269 by Robert de Ufford, Justiciar of Ireland, on lands he had seized from the Augustinian Priory. It was besieged by Connacht King Aodh O'Connor in 1272. Eight years later it was again in the hands of an English garrison and fully repaired.

By 1340 the O'Connors regained possession of the castle and, except for a few brief intermissions, they held it for two centuries until 1569, when Sir Henry Sidney, Lord Deputy seized it. It was granted to Sir Nicholas Malbie, Elizabethan Governor of Connaught, in 1578. Two years later the interior was remodelled and large mullioned windows were inserted in the towers and curtain walls. Again, in 1641 the Parliamentarian faction gained it until Confederate Catholics under Preston captured it in 1645. It remained in Irish hands until 1652 when it was partially destroyed by Cromwellian "Ironsides" under Commissary Reynolds, who had all the fortifications dismantled. It was finally burned down in 1690, and, from the closing years of the 17th century, it gradually fell into decay. A symmetrical moat some distance from the curtain walls surrounded the entire castle and safeguarded it.

The monastery at Roscommon (RO039-043006) and its abbots are mentioned in documentary sources occasionally into the 12th century. The cross of Cong, containing a fragment of the true cross, was made for this monastery in 1123 at the behest of Turogh O'Connor. The monastery was nominated as a diocesan centre at Kells in 1152, but lost this place to Elphin (RO016-127002) in 1170, by which time the monastery at Roscommon had become an Augustinian house (SMR file). The Augustinian Rule was adopted in c. 1140, and the monastery continued as Augustinian until the Dissolution. The name may have changed to St. Mary's in the 13th century and it may have also had a resident community of nuns at this time. It was plundered by the de Burgos in 1204 and 1260, and was burnt in 1235, 1247 and 1360 (ibid.). The Augustinian priory was granted the right to hold a market in 1282, but its location of this market is currently unknown.

A Dominican friary (RO039-055001) was established by Felimid O'Connor in 1253, c. 270m south-southwest of the proposed development area in Ballypheasan townland. It was burned in 1270 and struck by lightning in 1308. By 1445 it was in disrepair when an indulgence was granted to restore its fabric and in 1578 it was granted to Sir Nicholas Malby. In 1615 it was granted to Francis Viscount Valentia, but was described as in ruins in 1612 (SMR file).

It is not known if the town was surrounded by a defensive wall during the medieval period. Thomas (1992) suggests that while a town wall may not have been present earthen defences or a town ditch may have present as early as 1299. Sub-surface structural remains recorded during archaeological investigations (see Section 3.2 below) at the southern end of Main Street, represent the medieval gatehouse (RO039-043004) which was partially extant until the 19th century. The recorded remains consisted of eastern and western wall footings of the gatehouse, as well as a number of additional post-medieval features, including a culvert, running north-south along the existing roadway. These identified foundations of the gatehouse partially extend within the northern limit proposed scheme boundary. The location of the gatehouse remains is now marked by an engraved limestone slab on both eastern and western side of Main Street, set within the existing street surface.

### 3.1.4 Post-Medieval Period (AD 1600–1800)

A map of Roscommon town by Nicholas Malby (c. 1580) shows the town house and market place (SMR file). A map of 1736 by Francis Plunket shows the market house (RO039-043015) as a small building with a domed roof in the market place to the north of the proposed development. The building (RO039-043015) had collapsed in 1719, but it was rebuilt after 1762 by George and John Ensor as a rectangular and arcaded tholsel of six bays by three bays with the session rooms of the Grand Jury overhead (ibid.).

In 1836, the market house became the Roman Catholic Church. It was re-designed by J. O'Farrell who turned it into a one storey building, built up the arcades, expanded the porch with a tower and cupola overhead. This work was completed by 1844 and the building continued as a church until 1903 when the church of the Sacred Heart, designed by Walter Doolin, was opened. Throughout the 20th century the old Session House served as a town hall, called the Harrison Hall after a popular physician. In the late 1970s, it was sold to the Bank of Ireland who opened it as a branch in 1980 (SMR file).

Some 17th century references to Roscommon Camp suggest that there were earthwork defences, perhaps occupying the high ground later occupied by the new jail (RO039-043003), c. 99m west of the proposed development area. The jail was commissioned in 1814 and had been built by 1832 to a design by Sir Richard Morrison (1767-1849), with construction undertaken by Thomas Colbourne and Richard Richards, architects and builders.

The new gaol cost £22,252 and in the 1832 Statistical Survey of County Roscommon, Isaac Weld, describes the gaol as 'being built on a semi-circular plan, consisting of eight divisions, with appropriate yards and workrooms, a separate hospital and chapel and ninety-one sleeping cells. The prison was closed in 1886 and in 1887 it came into use as a RIC barracks. It was disused from 1921 to 1925 but was taken over by the *An Garda Síochána* (until 1948) before it was largely demolished. Excavation revealed features from the time it was in use as a prison (Bennett 2003:1598, Licence 03E1245).

A holy well (RO039-047) is recorded c. 41m northwest of the proposed development area where it runs along Circular Road. The veneration of wells is a widespread tradition in Ireland. Many holy wells can be found associated with early ecclesiastical sites; however, it is possible that at least some holy wells in Ireland were important venues of pre-Christian ritual activity. Most wells, including this example in the townland of Ballypheasan, are springs but occasionally other water sources, or hollowed stones which collect water, are treated as holy wells. Holy wells are frequently marked on the Ordnance Survey maps, and this example is shown on the first edition OS map as 'St. Coman's Vat'. According to the SMR file for this monument, the spring is now dry and there was once a rag-tree in close proximity to the holy well. It has been suggested that the crucifixion plaque within the proposed development footprint, in Chapel Lane (RO039-043005), may have once been located at the well (SMR file).

### **3.2 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK**

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2022) has revealed that a number of previous archaeological investigations have taken place within the study area of the proposed development area to date. These are summarised below.

A programme of monitoring was carried out by AMS Ltd in 2019 for an Irish Water pipeline within Roscommon town (Licence Ref.: 19E0428). This identified a portion of wall, 4.5m long x 0.3m wide, interpreted as representing the inside face of the gatehouse (RO039-043004) located at the southern end of the main street to the north of its junction with Chapel Lane. The feature was located c. 0.2m beneath the tarmac surface. Based off this discovery AMS Ltd suggested that the town wall continued perpendicularly from the gate wall in an east-northeast direction parallel to Chapel Lane and that the opposing wall would have travelled west-southwest parallel to Church Street.

Subsequently, IAC Archaeology Ltd. carried out limited testing at the site of the gatehouse (RO039-043004) as part of a proposed urban realm improvement scheme in 2021, immediately north of the current proposed development area footprint. The assessment confirmed that Wall 1 on the east side of the road, is the structure previously identified by AMS Ltd. This wall is substantial enough to be associated with a large masonry construction such as a gatehouse. A second wall (Wall 2) that extended parallel to and west of Wall 1 has been significantly impacted by later disturbance and it is unclear how or if it relates to Wall 1, either in terms of function or chronology. It was recommended that the areas of the sub-surface walls be excluded from any subsurface groundworks (Coughlan 2021, Ministerial Consent: C001003 E005306).

Two mortared stone culverts were located to the west of the centre of the Main Street. Culvert 1 may be of some antiquity and possibly contemporary with Wall 1, being located centrally within the gate in the town wall, but no direct evidence to confirm this was identified. The second culvert, in the west of the trench, was also undated but has been significantly damaged by modern services.



Archaeological monitoring at the south of Main Street, confirmed that the walls identified in the previous investigations can be identified as the foundations of the 16th/17th century town gate (Licence Ref.: 19E0428 ext., Walsh 2022). A culvert was identified, which appeared to extend in an east-west direction below the existing roadway. The eastern footings of the gatehouse were identified as a wall, orientated north-south, constructed of cut stone with lime mortar. This was the same wall referred to as Wall 1 in the previous programme of works (Coughlan 2021). The return of the wall extending east-west was also identified, though damaged by the laying of a cast-iron pipe. At the junction of Main Street and Church Street the western foundations of the gatehouse were identified, formed by dressed stone. The western corner appeared to be built to a right-angle, however, a series of services had impacted the wall, particularly along its eastern length. A culvert was also identified, running in line with the western carriage way of Main Street. All archaeological features identified were photographed, recorded and preserved *in situ*. The positions of these features in relation to the current proposed development area are shown on Figure 5. The location of the gatehouse is marked by engraved limestone slabs within the pavement on both the eastern and western sides of the roadway. Further to the north of the proposed development area in the Square, two wells were identified. It was proposed to preserve the wells *in situ* with one being covered in glass to allow viewing by the public. In addition, a medieval wall in front of the Post Office along the Square was recorded. The purpose of the wall was unclear but it may have been a property division or garden wall. A second section of medieval wall was recorded north of the Post Office and may have served a similar function.

Test-trenching for a shopping arcade to the immediate north of the proposed development area at the Square identified a number of small pits and a damaged 19th century French drain (Licence Ref.: 03E1651, Bennett 2003:1601). A later programme of testing investigated the drain and discovered that it ran for 25m along the western side and 15m along the southern side of the site (Licence Ref.: 04E0280, Bennett 2004:1481). A waste collection room, later utilised as a car service pit, was situated on the east side of the channel.

A layer of 19th century cobbles was encountered, which overlaid two undated, denuded walls at the junction of the Main Street and Chapel Lane after the demolition of a terraced retail premises (Licence Ref.: 03E1334, Bennett 2003:1594; Licence Ref.: 03E1334 ext., Bennett 2004:1480).

A programme of testing was carried out at Brogan's Lane, immediately east of the proposed development footprint under licence 05E0994. While no excavation summary has been submitted for these works to date, the site has been added to the SMR under RO039-043019. The SMR file records that an oval pit was uncovered, which produced the handle of a green-glazed jug and a bottle dating to the 17th century. The pit was preserved *in situ*.

Archaeological testing was carried out at the site of a holy well (RO039-047), c. 41m north of the proposed development area (Licence Ref.: 04E1413). The holy well was revealed to be a natural spring, and two sub-rectangular pits were identified to the



immediate south and the immediate north of the spring. It was suggested by the excavating archaeologist that these features, which had vertical sides, may represent the base sockets of upright monuments, which may have marked the location of the holy well., although no other evidence of such monuments was discovered (Bennett 2004:1482). These two pit features have since been added to the SMR under RO039-047001 and RO039-047002.

The licences listed below in Table 1, did not produce any features or deposits of archaeological significance.

**TABLE 1:** List of excavations of no archaeological significance

LICENCE REF.:	REFERENCE	DISTANCE FROM DEVELOPMENT
05E1354	Bennett 2005:1348	Within the proposed development area
18E0627	Bennett 2018:675	Partially within the proposed development area
07E0424	Bennett 2007:1514	Immediately north
03E0668	Bennett 2003:1591	Immediately south
03E0668 ext.	Bennett 2003:1592	Immediately south
05E0602	Bennett 2005:1346	Immediately south
08E0545	Bennett 2008:1044	c. 50m south
06E1185	Bennett 2006:1754	c. 76m south
11E0439	Bennett 2011:516	c. 92m north
11E0439 ext.	Bennett 2014:110	c. 92m north
04E1143	Bennett 2004:1479	c. 107m north
07E0822	Bennett 2007:1511	c. 115m south
00E0339	Bennett 2000:1110	c. 128m west
01E1211	Bennett 2001:1121	c. 135m southwest

### 3.3 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

#### **Sir William Petty, Down Survey Map, County Roscommon, c. 1654-6**

This map annotates the town of Roscommon and depicts the abbey (RO039-043006) to the south of the town and the castle (RO039-043001) to the north. There are no other features depicted.

#### **First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1838, scale 1:10,560 (Figure 3)**

This is the first accurate historic mapping coverage of the area containing the proposed development area. The street layout of the town, especially the portion containing the proposed development area, has not changed significantly since this time. Both the abbey (RO039-043006) and the castle (RO039-043001) from the Down Survey are still depicted and the remnants of an avenue (RO039-043018) linking the castle to the town are also shown. The Old Gaol (RO039-043013) lies at the end of

this avenue. The New Gaol (RO039-043003) and court house are depicted to the west of the proposed development area.

A square structure, the former Market House (RO039-043015), is annotated as the R.C. Chapel within the centre of the Market Place, known today as the Square. A number of structures, including a brewery, are shown fronting onto the Main Street and Market Place with rear plots that may represent the remains of former medieval burgage plots. The Old R.C. Chapel is depicted bordering the site to the east of Chapel Lane and St Coman's Church (RO039-043006) lies to the south.

The eastern half of the proposed development footprint extends through undeveloped open fields in Ballypheasan townland to the east of the town. The townland boundaries between Ardsallagh More and Cloonybeirne are crossed at the eastern limit of the proposed development footprint. The holy well, St Coman's Vat (RO039-047), is annotated to the northwest.

#### **Ordnance Survey Map, 1892, scale 1:2,500 (Figure 4)**

The proposed development area and layout of the town have seen a number of changes since the 1838 OS map. The R.C. Chapel (RO039-043015) has been redesigned and includes a porch with a tower and cupola overhead to the south and a sacristy to the north. The brewery and Old R.C. Chapel are no longer depicted and two hotels, a Presbyterian church, the Manse, a Bank of Ireland branch and presbytery are marked fronting onto the site. The Old Gaol (RO039-043013) is no longer annotated; however, the structure has been developed. A graveyard (RO039-043007) is marked at St Coman's Church (RO039-043006). The Circular Road has been constructed to the east of the town, however apart from the Gas Works there bordering land remains undeveloped fields.

#### **Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1927, scale 1:10,560**

There are no major changes to note within the cartography of this map that relate to the proposed development area.

### **3.4 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

#### **3.4.1 Record of Monuments and Places**

The Roscommon County Development Plan (2022-2028) and Roscommon Town Local Area Plan (2014-2020) both recognise the statutory protection afforded to all Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) sites under the National Monuments Legislation (1930-2014). The development plan lists a number of aims and objectives in relation to archaeological heritage (Appendix 2).

The proposed development area lies partially within the zone of archaeological potential for the historic town of Roscommon (RO039-043). There are also 25 recorded monuments within the 200m study area of the proposed development area, including two redundant records (Table 2; Figure 1; Appendix 1). Two of these

monuments are located within the footprint of the scheme, a gatehouse (RO039-043004) and a crucifixion plaque (RO039-043005).

It should be noted, however, that the gatehouse (RO039-043004) constitutes the remains of the town defences of Roscommon Town. Under the National Policy on Town Defences (2008) town walls and associated features (such as gatehouses) are considered to be of national significance, and as such have National Monument status.

**TABLE 2:** Recorded Archaeological Sites (showing ID for Figure 1)

RMP NO.	LOCATION	CLASSIFICATION	MAP ID FIGURE 1	DISTANCE TO SCHEME
RO039-043004	Ardnanagh, Ballypheasan	Gatehouse	1	Within the proposed development area
RO039-043005	Ballypheasan	Crucifixion plaque	2	Within the proposed development area
RO039-043	Ardnanagh, Ballypheasan, Cloonbrackna, Loughnaneane	Historic town	3	Proposed development area partially within the zone of archaeological potential
RO039-043007	Ballypheasan	Graveyard	4	Immediately east of the proposed development area
RO039-043028	Ballypheasan	Cross-slab	5	5m south
RO039-043017	Ballypheasan	Memorial stone	6	9m south
RO039-043027	Ballypheasan	Cross	7	11m south
RO039-043006	Ballypheasan	Religious house - Augustinian canons	8	15m south
RO039-043019	Ballypheasan	Excavation - miscellaneous	9	15m north
RO039-043016	Ballypheasan	Cross-slab	10	16m south
RO039-043008	Ballypheasan	Architectural fragment	11	19m east
RO039-043020	Ballypheasan	Kiln - lime	12	29m north
RO039-047002	Ballypheasan	Excavation - miscellaneous	13	39m north
RO039-047	Ballypheasan	Ritual site - holy well	14	41m north
RO039-043009	Ballypheasan	Inscribed slab	15	43m south
RO039-047001	Ballypheasan	Excavation - miscellaneous	16	44m north
RO039-043003	Ardnanagh, Ballypheasan	Prison	17	99m west
RO039-043015	Ballypheasan	Market-house	18	123m north
RO039-043002	Ballypheasan,	Redundant	19	131m north

RMP NO.	LOCATION	CLASSIFICATION	MAP ID FIGURE 1	DISTANCE TO SCHEME
	Ardnanagh	record		
RO039-043013	Ballypheasan	Prison	20	155m north
RO039-043012	Ardnanagh	Architectural fragment	21	166m north
RO039-043024	Ardnanagh	Inscribed slab (present location)	22	170m north
RO039-043029	Ardeash	Stoup (present location)	23	170m north
RO039-043025	Ardnanagh	Sheela-na-gig (present location)	24	174m north
RO039-088	Ballypheasan	Redundant record	25	177m south

### 3.5 TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

Information on artefact finds from the study area in County Roscommon has been recorded by the National Museum of Ireland since the late 18th century. Location information relating to these finds is important in establishing prehistoric and historic activity in the study area. Only one record is listed in the Topographical Files of the NMI for study area of the proposed development area (see below).

MUSEUM NO	-
TOWNLAND	Ballypheasan
PARISH	Roscommon
BARONY	Ballintober
FIND	Inscribed Slabs
FIND PLACE	St. Comman's Church Site
DESCRIPTION	Decorated and inscribed slabs. One was a grave slab with Romanesque type decoration, another had a plain cross-in-circle motif, plus a number of later grave stones with Passion symbols. The cemetery is on the site of the early medieval monastery founded by St. Comman.
REFERENCE	NMI Topographical Files

### 3.6 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development area held by the Ordnance Survey (1995-2013), Google Earth (2006-2020) and Bing Maps (2022) failed to identify any previously unknown archaeological sites due to the urban nature of the town centre.

### 3.7 FIELD INSPECTION

The field inspection sought to assess the site, its previous and current land use, the topography and any additional information relevant to the report. During the course

of the field investigation the proposed development site and its surrounding environs were inspected (Figure 1).

The proposed development area has been divided by street in order to aid description.

### **Henry Street**

Henry Street is a narrow street with footpaths on either side. On the eastern side of the street, the site of the Augustinian abbey (RO039-043006), now occupied by Saint Cummans Episcopal Church, is enclosed within a boundary wall (Plate 1). The wall of the historic graveyard (RO039-043007) abuts the footpath on the eastern side of Henry Street (Plate 2). There is a small carpark immediately north of the upstanding church (Plate 3). As you travel southwards on Henry Street, the road carriageway narrows and, in some areas, there are no footpaths (Plate 4). Further south, a historic stone-built ruin is present on the western side of Henry Street, which fronts directly on to the road carriageway (Plate 5).

### **Church Street**

Church Street is a street running roughly east-east from Goff Street. It is of mixed use with both residential and commercial premises along it. The footpaths on either side of the roadway, are paved in modern stone setts (Plate 6 and 7).

### **Goff Street**

Goff Street is a wide street lined with houses and commercial structures (Plate 8). The road and pavements are surfaced in modern materials and the line of sight from the southern end of Goff Street is maintained through Main Street to the former Market House (RO039-043015).

### **Athlone Road**

Athlone Road runs east-west from the Circular Road to Goff Street. The southern footpath, extending from Circular Road is lined by cast iron bollards (Plate 9). The footpaths are surfaced in modern stone setts on the southern side and modern concrete on the north side of the road. A small roughly triangular car parking area is present at the junction of the Athlone Road and Brogan's Lane (Plate 10). Brogan's Lane is a narrow lane extending to the north of the Athlone Road, it is surfaced in tarmac and does not have footpaths due to its narrow width.

### **Circular Road**

The Circular Road is a wide modern roadway (Plate 11). There is a grassed border with tree planting to the footpath, in some areas, particularly at the northern end of the proposed development area (Plate 12). The proposed development area in the vicinity of the existing Roscommon Arts Centre includes a yard area to the rear of the centre (Plate 13), which is currently undeveloped. Mart Road extends west from Circular Road, to the north of the existing cattle mart and the south of Dunnes Stores (Plate 14). An access lane to the Tesco supermarket also extends west from the Circular Road, with a loading bay on the southern side of the street and a pedestrian

footpath to the northern side (Plate 15). The proposed development area boundary extends into the existing Tesco car park (Plate 16).

### **Chapel Lane**

Chapel Lane links Main Street with the access lane to Tesco supermarket. The western end of this lane has been redeveloped recently (Plate 17). The eastern end of Chapel Lane contains a crucifixion plaque (RO039-043005) now built into a wall on the northern side of the lane (Plate 18). A Roman Catholic church was located on Chapel Lane from 1756 to 1834 but this is not the original location of the plaque, which is believed to have been St. Coman's Well (RO039-047). The plaque features the crucifixion with two figures and is surrounded by medieval tracery.

The crucifixion plaque (RO039-043005) is a recorded monument, although not within its original context. It is currently built into a wall on the northern side of Chapel Lane. No previously unknown features of archaeological significance were identified during the field inspection.

## 4 CONCLUSIONS

The proposed development area is located in Roscommon Town, traversing the Circular Road, Athlone Road, Goff Street, Church Street and Henry Street. The proposed development area partially lies within the zone of archaeological potential for the historic town (RO039-043) (Figure 1). Two recorded monuments are located within the footprint of the proposed development area, a gatehouse (RO039-043004) and a crucifixion plaque (RO039-043005).

Sub-surface structural remains of the medieval town wall and gate house have been identified at the junction of Main Street and Goff Street during two recent archaeological investigations c. 0.2m below the road tarmac (Walsh 2022, Licence 19E0428ext.; Coughlan 2021, Ministerial Consent C001003 E005306). This section of gatehouse (RO039-043004) and town wall are the only surviving evidence of the medieval town defences recorded to date and are considered to have National Monument status. These structural elements have been preserved *in-situ* c. 0.2m below the modern street level within the northern perimeter of the proposed development area (Figure 5) and as such this area has high sensitivity.

The crucifixion plaque (RO039-043005) has been mounted within a wall along Chapel Lane, and while a church is known to have been present here in the 18th and 19th centuries the plaque is believed to have originated at St. Coman's Well (RO039-047) which is located to the west of the proposed development off Circular Road.

The cartographic sources and aerial imagery depict the proposed development area as an evolving urban area throughout the post-medieval period. Field inspection confirmed the location of the crucifixion plaque (RO039-043005) however no previously unrecorded features of archaeological significance were identified at this time.

The proposed development area is considered to have high potential for archaeological features associated with the historic town (RO039-043), particularly related to the medieval town defences such as the gatehouse (RO039-043004) identified at the south end of Main Street.

## 5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Impacts can be identified from detailed information about a project, the nature of the area affected and the range of archaeological resources potentially affected. Archaeological sites can be affected adversely in a number of ways: disturbance by excavation, topsoil stripping; disturbance by vehicles working in unsuitable conditions; and burial of sites, limiting access for future archaeological investigation. Upstanding archaeology can be affected adversely by direct damage or destruction arising from development, from inadvertent damage arising from vibration, undermining etc. and also by indirect impacts to a building's visual setting, view or curtilage.

### 5.1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- Recently identified structural remains of the medieval gatehouse (RO039-043004) and town wall have been preserved *in-situ* c. 0.2m below the modern street level within the northern perimeter of the proposed development area. They are the only surviving evidence of the medieval town defences recorded to date and are considered to have National Monument status. Groundworks associated with the proposed development, such as excavation for services or tree planting that extend below the modern road levels, have the potential to negatively impact these important sub-surface remains.
- Additionally, there may be an adverse impact on previously unrecorded archaeological features or deposits that have the potential to survive beneath the current road surface, particularly within the zone of archaeological potential for the historic town (RO039-043). This will be caused by ground disturbances associated with the proposed development, such as excavation for services or tree planting that extend below the modern road levels.
- There is no predicted impact to the crucifixion plaque (RO039-043005) by the proposed development as it will be preserved within the existing wall on Chapel Lane.

### 5.2 MITIGATION

We recommend the following actions in mitigation of the impacts above.

- All ground works associated with the proposed development in the vicinity of the medieval gate house (RO039-043004) and town walls should be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist under Ministerial Consent. If any features of archaeological potential are discovered during the course of works further archaeological mitigation may be required, such as preservation *in-situ* or by record. Any further mitigation will require approval from the National Monuments Service of the DoHLGH.
- All ground works within the zone of archaeological potential for the historic town RO039-043, that extend below the level of the modern road surface,



should also be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. If any features of archaeological potential are discovered during the course of the works further archaeological mitigation may be required, such as preservation *in-situ* or by record. Any further mitigation will require approval from the National Monuments Service of the DoHLGH.

- No mitigation is deemed necessary in relation to the crucifixion plaque (RO039-043005).

*It is the developer's responsibility to ensure full provision is made available for the resolution of any archaeological remains, both on site and during the post excavation process, should that be deemed the appropriate manner in which to proceed.*

**Please note that all recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service of the Heritage and Planning Division, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.**

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## **CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES**

Sir William Petty, Down Survey Map, County Roscommon, c. 1654-6.

Ordnance Survey maps of County Roscommon, 1838-1927.

## **ELECTRONIC SOURCES\***

[www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie) – Summary of archaeological excavation from 1970–2022.

[www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) – DoHLGH website listing all SMR/RMP sites.

[www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie) – The Heritage Council web-based spatial data viewer which focuses on the built, cultural and natural heritage.

[www.googleearth.com](http://www.googleearth.com) – Satellite imagery of the proposed development area.

[www.bing.com](http://www.bing.com) – Satellite imagery of the proposed development area.

[www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie) – Placenames Database of Ireland launched by Fiontar agus Scoil na Gaelige and the DoHLGH.

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 SMR/RMP SITES WITHIN THE SURROUNDING AREA

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-043004
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ardnanagh, Ballypheasan
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587453,764449
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Gatehouse
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	Within the proposed development area
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Roscommon town (RO039-043----) appears to have been defended, but no walls survive and their course is unknown, but a gate at the S end of Main St. survived as late as the early 19th century and appears on maps by Francis Plunkett (1736) (Bradley and Dunne 1988a, 91) and D. A. Beaufort (1808) (Siggins 1998b). Archaeological monitoring (19E0428) by P. Walsh of the trench for a water-pipe on Main St at the junction with Church St and Goff St identified on the E side of the trench what is probably a medieval wall just 0.2m below the road surface. Its width could not be gauged but the wall face extended along the trench (L 5.5m) and beyond its depth (D 0.96m). The earlier water-pipe took advantage of the passage of the town gate at this point. (Walsh 2012, 13)
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-043005
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ballypheasan
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587523,764476
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Crucifixion plaque
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	Within the proposed development area
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Five dressed stones were set into the back wall of a garden in Chapel Lane where a Roman Catholic church was located from 1756 to 1834 when the old Session House (RO9039-043015-) was converted into a church. However, the crucifixion plaque is thought to have come originally from St. Coman's Well (RO039-047----) (Siggins 1998c). The plaque (Wth 0.37-0.39m; H 0.33-0.36m) is in relief showing the crucifixion and two figures (Timoney 1980, 142-3). It is surrounded by some fragments of medieval tracery. After re-development of the area it is now displayed on a wall in Chapel Lane.
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-043
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ardnanagh, Ballypheasan, Cloonbrackna, Loughnaneane
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587419,764536
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Historic town
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	Proposed development area partially within the zone of archaeological potential
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<p>A monastery (RO039-0430006-) was founded here by St Comán, who died in AD 747. The monastery and its abbots are mentioned occasionally into the 12th century. It was attacked by Vikings in 807 and 823, and in 1050 its round tower was destroyed. The cross of Cong, containing a fragment of the true cross, was made for this monastery in 1123 at the behest of Turlough O'Connor (O Rian and Murray 2005). The monastery was nominated as a diocesan centre at Kells in 1152, but lost this place to Elphin (RO016-127002-) in 1170, by which time the monastery at Roscommon had become an Augustinian house. The town is situated around a low hill, the abbey on its S-facing side, the castle at the foot of the N-facing slope.</p> <p>Roscommon was probably the only town founded by an Irish lord, Turlough O'Connor, although not formally chartered, and the Anglo-Normans conducted raids against it in 1235 and 1260. The town appears to have been defended from the beginning which can be associated with the building of the castle from 1268. However, no walls survive and their course is unknown, but a gate (RO039-043004-) at the S end of Main St. is known from as late as the early 19th century. There are no known grants of murage, but there are references to burgages and a north gate in 1299 and a charter was confirmed in 1310-11. A Dominican friary (RO039-055---) was founded to the S of the town in 1253. The castle (RO039-043001-) was begun by the Crown in 1268 to resist O'Connor aggression, and a settlement, called the 'King's town' developed in relation to it.</p> <p>The castle and town were captured by Ruairi O'Connor in 1315 and the castle was held by O'Connor Don until 1566, but the town declined rapidly from the early 14th century. The town was probably defunct in 1577, when the castle and the lands of the dissolved monasteries were leased to Sir Nicholas Malby. This was transformed into a grant in 1579. Malby converted the castle into a fortified house (RO039-043010-), but his proposal of a new town to the S of the castle was probably never built. After the burning of the town in 1596 and 1599, its focus probably moved to the Market Place and Main St. The town was incorporated in 1613, returning two MPs to the Irish Parliament until 1800, and supported the Parliament side in the 1640s but in 1659 its population was only 94.</p> <p>The site of the early monastery and Augustinian priory (RO039-042006-) is around Church St. and the town probably developed to the N of this. The</p>

	Castle (RO039-043001-) is c. 1km to the N, and the Dominican friary (RO039-055001-) is c. 500m to the S. A crucifixion plaque (RO039-043005-) was until lately in a garden off Chapel Lane where it is now re-erected, and some 17th century architectural fragments (RO039-043012-) are at the Roscommon County Museum. Archaeological excavations have yet to produce any evidence of settlement (Excavations 1997, 153-4; 1998, 178; 1999, 271; 2000; 2001, 355-6; 2002, 456-8; 2003, 425-9; 2004, 381-2; 2005, 327-8; 2006, 463-5; 2007, 416-7), apart from one lime-kiln (RO039-043019-) on the E side of Main St which may be post-medieval (Carey 2004c), and a 17th century pit (RO039-043020-). (Bradley and Dunne 1988a, 85-111; Thomas, 1992, vol. 2, 186-9; Doran 2005, 394)
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-043007
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ballypheasan
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587401,764325
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Graveyard
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	Immediately east of the proposed development area
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	The monastery of St. Comán (RO039-043006-) was centered on the site now occupied by the Church of Ireland church where there are some fragments of transitional masonry, and human bones were uncovered in Goff St. to the E c. 1917. A slab with an early inscription (RO039-043009-) found in the rectangular graveyard (dims c. 80m E-W; c. 45m N-S) is now in the County Museum (RO038-043024-), while a cross-slab (RO039-043016-) found more recently was moved to a position against the S wall of the present church in 2013. A rough-out of a cross-base (RO0239-043027-) is also in the graveyard defined by masonry walls. Also present are fragments of the masonry of a large Gothic window, and a cross-slab (RO039-043028-) with a crudely-incised latin cross and a single-line ring is used as a grave-marker.
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-043028
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ballypheasan
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587361,764347
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Cross-slab
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	5m south
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	A cross-slab (dims of base 0.57m x 0.12-0.14m; H 0.64-0.7m) with a

	crudely-incised latin cross (H 0.58m; Span 0.56m) and a single line ring (dims 0.3-0.39m) on its E face is used as a grave-marker in St Comán's graveyard.
<b>REFERENCE</b>	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-043017
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ballypheasan
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587375,764372
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Memorial stone
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	9m south
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<p>Inside the Church of Ireland St Comán's church there is a wall memorial to the Gunnings of Castlecoote dated 1717 that might have been moved from Fuerty church (RO039-063001-), and to Lovelaces of Ballybride dated 1723. There is also a wall memorial dated 1696 to John and Catherine Fleming of Roscommon, although it may have been moved to here. The Fleming memorial reads in full:</p> <p>This Monument was / Erected by Mr. John Flem / ing of Roscommon in Me / mory of His Wife Mrs. Cath / erine Fleming alias Con / way Who departed this / life ye 22 day of 8th and / in ye 32 year of her age / and lyeth interned before / it. (The above in a bold Latin script)</p> <p>here also lyeth ye Body of / John Fleming / who depart.d this life / March ye 10th 1696 in ye / 37th yr of his age. (This in an incised italic script)</p> <p>Re Erectd. By Mr. John Kelly of Dublin and Roger Kelly of Roscommon. (This in an incised script rather like that immediately above.)</p> <p>Renewed of Mary J. Gerraghty Athlone and Thomas J. Gerraghty Roscommon 1887. (This at the very bottom of the stone)</p>
<b>REFERENCE</b>	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-043027
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ballypheasan
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587371,764357
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Cross
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	11m south
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	This stone was identified by N. Hoare and K. Bryers in July 2013 and had

	been recovered from an earlier clean-up of the graveyard attached to St. Comán's Church (RO039-043006-). It is a sandstone boulder (dims 0.65m by 0.4m plus; H 0.37m) with a single rather straight-sided socket (dims of top 0.3m x 0.23m plus; D c. 0.06-0.09m) on top that has been damaged by the removal of one side of the socket. It is now under a tree near the S wall of the church.
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-043006
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ballypheasan
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587380,764370
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Religious house - Augustinian canons
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	15m south
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<p>Situated on a gentle SE-facing slope within Roscommon town. The monastery was founded by St Comán, supposedly a disciple of St Finnian of Clonard, in the 6th century. Comán was a son of Faolchú and is reliably connected with the Dál nAraidhe of north-east Ulster. He died in 747 and his feastday is celebrated on 26th December. The 'law of St Comán' was proclaimed over much of Connaught in 771, 779 and 792 (Ó Rian 2011, 216-7). The monastery may have been raided by the Vikings in 807 (AU, 263), but this is unlikely. However, it was burnt in 823 and again in 1134. The processional cross known as the cross of Cong was made for this church, possibly at the church, in 1123 as a gift from Turlough O'Conor. The church became the diocesan centre after the Synod of Kells in 1152, but this honour had been moved to Elphin (RO016-127001-) by 1172.</p> <p>The Augustinian Rule was adopted c. 1140, and the church continued in use as an Augustinian house until the Dissolution, although the dedication may have changed to St. Mary's in the 13th century when it might also have had a community of nuns. Coarbs continue into the thirteenth century at least. It was plundered by the de Burgos in 1204 and 1260, and was burnt in 1235 and 1247 and 1360 (Gwynne and Hadcock 1970, 191-2, 323). After the monastery was suppressed c. 1540 its land was granted to Sir Nicholas Malby (Hoare 2014), who transformed the Castle (RO039-043006-) into the fortified house (RO039-043010-) also on the site today. The monastery consisted of at least one stone church and a round tower, which was burnt in 1050 by the men of Breiffne (AFM vol. 2, 859). It is described as a ruined church, hall and cloister in 1578 (Bradley and Dunne 1988a, 97-8). It was centered on the site now occupied by the Church of Ireland church of St. Comán, which was built in the 18th century and where some fragments of transitional 12th century masonry (RO039-043008-) are incorporated into the tower. The head of a 13th century lancet window is kept within the church. The present E gable has a three-light decorated window, much of which is original, while internally its embrasure has a decorated surround with pinnacles, dating from c. 1450.</p>



	<p>Inside the church there is a wall memorial to the Gunnings of Castlecoote dated 1717 that might have been moved from Fuerty church (RO039-063001-), and to Lovelaces of Ballybride dated 1723. There is also a wall memorial (RO039-043017-) dated 1696 to John and Catherine Fleming of Roscommon, although it may have been moved to here.</p> <p>An inscribed slab (dims 0.93m x 0.41-0.65m; T 0.06-0.15m) (RO039-043009-) which dates to the 9th century asks for a blessing on Ioseph and is now in the Roscommon County Museum. A cross-slab (RO039-043016-) (dims 1m x 0.7m; max. T 0.13m) decorated with the stem of a cross and traces of ring also has a panel of interlace and roundels at the edge of the stone (Siggins, 1996; Barton 1996). The latter was moved to a position against the S wall of the present church in 2013. Both were found in the rectangular graveyard (RO039-043007-) (dims c. 80m E-W; c. 45m N-S) which also contains fragments of the masonry of a large Gothic window, and a cross-slab (RO039-043028-) with a crudely-incised latin cross and a single-line ring is used as a grave-marker. Human bones were uncovered in Goff St. to the E c. 1917. The holy well of St. Comán's Vat (RO039-047----) is c. 600m to the NW.</p>
<b>REFERENCE</b>	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-043019
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ballypheasan
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587495,764405
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Excavation - miscellaneous
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	15m north
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	On the N side of Brogan's Lane within Roscommon town. Test excavations (05E0994) by B. O'Donachada uncovered an oval pit (dims 3.6m N-S; 1.35m E-W; D 0.8m plus) that produced a handle of a green-glazed jug and a 17th century bottle. The pit was preserved under the new development. (O'Donachada 2005)
<b>REFERENCE</b>	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-043016
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ballypheasan
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587379,764366
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Cross-slab
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	16m south

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	A broken cross-slab (dims 1m x 0.7m; max. T 0.13m) decorated with the stem of a cross and traces of a ring also has a panel of interlace and roundels at the edge of the stone. It was found in St Comán's graveyard (RO039-043007-) (Siggins 1996a), and is now displayed against the S wall of St. Comán's Church of Ireland church.
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-043008
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ballypheasan
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587380,764360
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Architectural fragment
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	19m east
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Some architectural fragments of a transitional nature and of the 15th century are incorporated in the church tower, and fragments of a large Gothic window are preserved in the graveyard (RO0390-043007-) at the site of St Comán's church (RO039-043006-).
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-043020
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ballypheasan
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587473,764480
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Kiln - lime
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	29m north
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	On the E side of Main St. of Roscommon town. Trial excavation (02E0029) by A. Carrey uncovered part of a lime-kiln (diam. 1.2m), which may be 18th century in date. (Carey 2004c)
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-047002
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ballypheasan
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587806,764736
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Excavation - miscellaneous
<b>DIST. FROM</b>	39m north

<b>DEVELOPMENT</b>	
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Archaeological excavation (04E1413) recorded a rectangular pit (RO039-047001-) just to the N of St Comán's holy well (RO039-047----) and another rectangular pit (dims 2.35m x 2.1m; D 0.3m) was just to its SE, but no artefacts were recovered from either pit, or the well. (Lohan 2007).
<b>REFERENCE</b>	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-047
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ballypheasan
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587805,764739
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Ritual site - holy well
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	41m north
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	In a low-lying position, c. 600m NW of the site of St Coman's church site (RO039-043006-). An overgrown hollow (diam. c. 4m; D 0.5m) which is now dry was, according to J. O'Donovan in the 1830s, venerated in the 19th century when a rag bush stood beside it (O' Flanagan 1931, vol. 1, 46). The crucifixion plaque now in Chapel Lane (RO039-043005-) originally may have come from here (Siggins 1998c). Excavation (04E1413) revealed the triangular shape of the natural spring (dims 4.45m x 3.65m), recovering modern artefacts in its upper layers. A rectangular pit (RO039-047001-) (dims 1.5m x 0.8m; D 0.35m) lay just to the N, and another rectangular pit (RO039-047002-) (dims 2.35m x 2.1m; D 0.3m) was just to the SE, but no artefacts were recovered from either pit, or the well. (Lohan 2007)
<b>REFERENCE</b>	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-043009
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ballypheasan
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587395,764328
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Inscribed slab
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	43m south
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	An inscribed slab (dims 0.93m x 0.37-0.65m; T 0.06-0.15m) dating from the 9th century was found in the rectangular graveyard (RO039-043007-) at the site of St Colmán's church (RO039-043006-) and is now in the Roscommon County Museum (RO039-043024-). It asks for a blessing for Ioseph, who died in 811 or 828, (Siggins 1996a; Barton 1994).
<b>REFERENCE</b>	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-047001
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ballypheasan
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587805,764743
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Excavation - miscellaneous
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	44m north
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Archaeological excavation (04E1413) recorded a rectangular pit (dims 1.5m x 0.8m; D 0.35m) just to the N of St Comán's holy well (RO039-047---), and another pit (RO039-047002-) was just to its SE, but no artefacts were recovered from either pit, or the well. (Lohan 2007).
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-043003
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ardnanagh, Ballypheasan
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587173,764470
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Prison
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	99m west
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	A new jail was commissioned in 1814 to replace the 18th century building (RO039-043013-) and had been built by 1824 (Weld 1832, 413-4) to a design by Sir Richard Morrison (1767-1849). The prison was closed in 1886 and partly re-opened in 1887 as an RIC barracks. It was disused from 1921 to 1925 when the Gardaí took it over until 1948 when it was largely demolished. Excavation (03E1245) revealed some walls and surfaces from the prison era (O'Hara 2006)
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-043015
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ballypheasan
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587396,764606
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Market-house
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	123m north
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	A map of Roscommon town by Nicholas Malby c. 1580 shows the town house and market place, and a map of 1736 by Francis Plunket shows the market house as a small building with a domed roof in the market place.

	The building had collapsed in 1719 (Gacquin 2006), but it was rebuilt after 1762 by George and John Ensor as a rectangular and arcaded tholsel of six bays by three bays with the session rooms of the Grand Jury overhead. In 1836 it became the Roman Catholic church and was re-designed by J. O'Farrell who turned it into a one storey building, built up the arcades, expanded the porch with a tower and cupola overhead, and added a sacristy at N. This work was completed by 1844 and the building continued as a church until 1903 when the church of the Sacred Heart, designed by Walter Doolin, was opened. Throughout the 20th century the old Session House served as a hall, called the Harrison Hall after a popular physician. In the late 1970s it was sold to the Bank of Ireland who opened it as a branch in 1980. (Siggins 1998b).
<b>REFERENCE</b>	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-043002
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ardnanagh, Ballypheasan
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587390,764637
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Redundant record
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	131m north
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	The Augustinian priory (RO039-043006-) was granted the right to hold a market in 1282 (Cal. doc. Ire., vol. 2, No. 2008), but its location is unknown. The present Market Place began to develop in the 17th century when the focus of the town moved here from the Church St. area. Market is no longer a classification used by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland.
<b>REFERENCE</b>	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-043013
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ardnanagh, Ballypheasan
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587374,764673
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Prison
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	155m north
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	On top of a broad hill within Roscommon town. A tower of two storeys but of unknown function is marked here on a map of 1736 by Francis Plunket (copy in Roscommon County Museum). The jail was reputedly designed by Richard Cassels, was built by 1745, and had the distinction of employing a hangwoman, lady Betty. It closed as a jail c. 1819 when the new jail (RO039-043003-) was built. From 1820 until 1833 it became an asylum

	(Weld 1832, 423-5). Thereafter it served as a market house, but by 1918 it had been converted into a dwelling called Tudor House. In 1985 most of the cell block, which had three storeys, was demolished, and only the administrative block of four storeys attached to its S survives. Excavation (97E0419) revealed no evidence of an earlier structure but the outline of the cell block (ext. dims c. 14m N-S; 10.5m E-W) with 8 cells (dims c. 2.5m x 2.5m) in all, four on either side of a N-S corridor (Wth 1.3m) was uncovered. There was a latrine chute at N with a drain running off to the NW. (Higgins 1998a)
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-043012
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ardnanagh
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587351,764598
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Architectural fragment
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	166m north
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Two carved fragments of a 17th-century doorway are attached to a gate beside the Old Presbyterian Church, now the Roscommon County Museum. (Higgins 1992)
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-043024
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ardnanagh
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587348,764605
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Inscribed slab (present location)
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	170m north
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	An inscribed slab (dims 0.93m x 0.41-0.65m; T 0.06-0.15m) (RO039-043009-) from the site of St Colman's church (RO039-043006-) dating from the 9th century and asking for a blessing on Ioseph is now in the Roscommon County Museum. (Barton 1996; Siggins 1996a)
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-043029
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ardeash
<b>PARISH</b>	Ardcarn
<b>BARONY</b>	Boyle

<b>I.T.M.</b>	587348,764604
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Stoup (present location)
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	170m north
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	A damaged limestone stoup (diam. c. 0.35m) with a carved head on one side (Siggins 1990, 46-7), which probably came from Rahara church (RO045-077001-) c. 1km to S, but which had been kept at Toberlorgan holy well (RO045-075001-), is now in the Roscommon County Museum. The head is one of an original three that would have represented the Holy Trinity (Siggins 2016).
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-043025
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ardnanagh
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587345,764606
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Sheela-na-gig (present location)
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	174m north
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	A Sheela-na-gig carved in low relief on a voussoir from an arch (RO045-077005-) (dims. H 0.44m; Wth 0.1-0.4m; T 0.3m) at Rahara church (RO045-077001-) is now in Roscommon County Museum. (Siggins 1990, 46-7; Freitag 2004, 139)
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

<b>SMR NO.</b>	RO039-088
<b>RMP STATUS</b>	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
<b>TOWNLAND</b>	Ballypheasan
<b>PARISH</b>	Roscommon
<b>BARONY</b>	Ballintober South
<b>I.T.M.</b>	587313,764000
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Redundant record
<b>DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT</b>	177m south
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	In a low-lying landscape. What appear to be some E-W banks or ditches that are on the pattern of the property plots in Roscommon town are visible on aerial photographs (CUCAP: AHM 29; AHM 30), but they do not survive in an area of about 3.5 acres (c. 1.5 ha) developed as a school.
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<a href="http://www.archaeology.ie/">www.archaeology.ie/</a> SMR file

## **APPENDIX 2 LEGISLATION PROTECTING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE**

### **PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE**

The cultural heritage in Ireland is safeguarded through national and international policy designed to secure the protection of the cultural heritage resource to the fullest possible extent (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands 1999, 35). This is undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* (Valletta Convention), ratified by Ireland in 1997.

### **THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE**

The *National Monuments Act 1930 to 2014* 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.

### **OWNERSHIP AND GUARDIANSHIP OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS**

The Minister may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian 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.

### **REGISTER OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS**

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. All registered monuments are included in the Record of Monuments and Places.

### **PRESERVATION ORDERS AND TEMPORARY PRESERVATION ORDERS**

Sites deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site



illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

### **RECORD OF MONUMENTS AND PLACES**

Section 12(1) of the 1994 Act requires the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (now the Minister for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) 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. All recorded monuments on the proposed development site are represented on the accompanying maps.

Section 12(3) of the 1994 Act provides that ‘where the owner or occupier (other than the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) of a monument or place included in the Record, or any other person, proposes 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 in writing to the Minister of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands to carry out work and shall not, except in case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister, commence the work until two months after giving of notice’.

Under the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004, anyone who demolishes or in any way interferes with a recorded site is liable to a fine not exceeding €3,000 or imprisonment for up to 6 months. On summary conviction and on conviction of indictment, a fine not exceeding €10,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years is the penalty. In addition, they are liable for costs for the repair of the damage caused.

In addition to this, under the *European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989*, Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) are required for various classes and sizes of development project to assess the impact the proposed development will have on the existing environment, which includes the cultural, archaeological and built heritage resources. These document’s recommendations are typically incorporated into the conditions under which the proposed development must proceed, and thus offer an additional layer of protection for monuments which have not been listed on the RMP.

### **THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000**

Under planning legislation, each local authority is obliged to draw up a Development Plan setting out their aims and policies with regard to the growth of the area over a five-year period. They cover a range of issues including archaeology and built heritage, setting out their policies and objectives with regard to the protection and enhancement of both. These policies can vary from county to county. The Planning and Development Act 2000 recognises that proper planning and sustainable

development includes the protection of the archaeological heritage. Conditions relating to archaeology may be attached to individual planning permissions.

### **Roscommon County Development Plan (2022-2028)**

It is a policy objective of Roscommon County Council to:

#### **BH 9.13**

Secure the preservation (i.e. preservation in situ or, as a minimum, preservation by record) of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994, and of sites, features and objects of archaeological interest generally. In securing such preservation Roscommon County Council will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

#### **BH 9.14**

To support the Rathcroghan Archaeological Complex, as a historic landscape with viable land-use practices and a viable population, by continuing to support initiatives such as the Farming Rathcroghan European Innovation Partnership and the Royal Sites of Ireland application to Ireland's World Heritage Tentative List and progression to designation of the Royal Sites of Ireland as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

### **Roscommon Town Local Area Plan (2014-2020)**

It is a policy of the plan to;

**Policy 66** Identify, protect and conserve structures (i.e. includes conservation, preservation, and improvement compatible with maintaining the character and interest of the structure), or parts of structures, which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or which are listed on the Record of Protected Structures or are located within the Roscommon Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs).

**Policy 67** Promote the protection and conservation of Buildings and Features of Interest identified in this Plan as they contribute to the character of the town.

**Policy 68** Protect and preserve the archaeological sites identified on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), those yet unknown and those discovered since the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places (1998).

**Policy 69** Seek archaeological assessment and, where appropriate, excavation and testing, preservation by record or preservation in situ, in relation to all development proposals on which the archaeological heritage may be affected.

**Policy 70** Protect the integrity, quality and context of significant sites and recorded monuments.

It is an objective of the plan to;

**Objective 68** Promote pride and awareness of the importance and value of Roscommon town's architectural and archaeological heritage, and manage any change to that heritage in such a way as to retain its character and special interest.

**Objective 77** Review and implement the County Roscommon Heritage Plan as it relates to the LAP area.

**Objective 78** Provide guidance to developers and property owners regarding the protection of the archaeological heritage and the archaeological implications of proposed development.

## **APPENDIX 3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE**

### **POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL REMAINS**

Impacts are defined as ‘the degree of change in an environment resulting from a development’ (Environmental Protection Agency 2017). They are described as profound, significant or slight impacts on archaeological remains. They may be negative, positive or neutral, direct, indirect or cumulative, temporary or permanent.

Impacts can be identified from detailed information about a project, the nature of the area affected and the range of archaeological and historical resources potentially affected. Development can affect the archaeological and historical resource of a given landscape in a number of ways.

- Permanent and temporary land-take, associated structures, landscape mounding, and their construction may result in damage to or loss of archaeological remains and deposits, or physical loss to the setting of historic monuments and to the physical coherence of the landscape.
- Archaeological sites can be affected adversely in a number of ways: disturbance by excavation, topsoil stripping and the passage of heavy machinery; disturbance by vehicles working in unsuitable conditions; or burial of sites, limiting accessibility for future archaeological investigation.
- Hydrological changes in groundwater or surface water levels can result from construction activities such as de-watering and spoil disposal, or longer-term changes in drainage patterns. These may desiccate archaeological remains and associated deposits.
- Visual impacts on the historic landscape sometimes arise from construction traffic and facilities, built earthworks and structures, landscape mounding and planting, noise, fences and associated works. These features can impinge directly on historic monuments and historic landscape elements as well as their visual amenity value.
- Landscape measures such as tree planting can damage sub-surface archaeological features, due to topsoil stripping and through the root action of trees and shrubs as they grow.
- Ground consolidation by construction activities or the weight of permanent embankments can cause damage to buried archaeological remains, especially in colluviums or peat deposits.
- Disruption due to construction also offers in general the potential for adversely affecting archaeological remains. This can include machinery, site offices, and service trenches.

*Although not widely appreciated, positive impacts can accrue from developments. These can include positive resource management policies, improved maintenance and access to archaeological monuments, and the increased level of knowledge of a site or historic landscape as a result of archaeological assessment and fieldwork.*

### **PREDICTED IMPACTS**

The severity of a given level of land-take or visual intrusion varies with the type of monument, site or landscape features and its existing environment. Severity of impact can be judged taking the following into account:

- The proportion of the feature affected and how far physical characteristics fundamental to the understanding of the feature would be lost;
- Consideration of the type, date, survival/condition, fragility/vulnerability, rarity, potential and amenity value of the feature affected;
- Assessment of the levels of noise, visual and hydrological impacts, either in general or site-specific terms, as may be provided by other specialists.

## **APPENDIX 4 MITIGATION MEASURES AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE**

### **POTENTIAL MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE REMAINS**

Mitigation is defined as features of the design or other measures of the proposed development that can be adopted to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset negative effects.

The best opportunities for avoiding damage to archaeological remains or intrusion on their setting and amenity arise when the site options for the development are being considered. Damage to the archaeological resource immediately adjacent to developments may be prevented by the selection of appropriate construction methods. Reducing adverse effects can be achieved by good design, for example by screening historic buildings or upstanding archaeological monuments or by burying archaeological sites undisturbed rather than destroying them. Offsetting adverse effects is probably best illustrated by the full investigation and recording of archaeological sites that cannot be preserved *in situ*.

### **DEFINITION OF MITIGATION STRATEGIES**

#### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE**

The ideal mitigation for all archaeological sites is preservation *in situ*. This is not always a practical solution, however. Therefore, a series of recommendations are offered to provide ameliorative measures where avoidance and preservation *in situ* are not possible.

*Archaeological Test Trenching* can be defined as ‘a limited programme of intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate’ (ClfA 2020a).

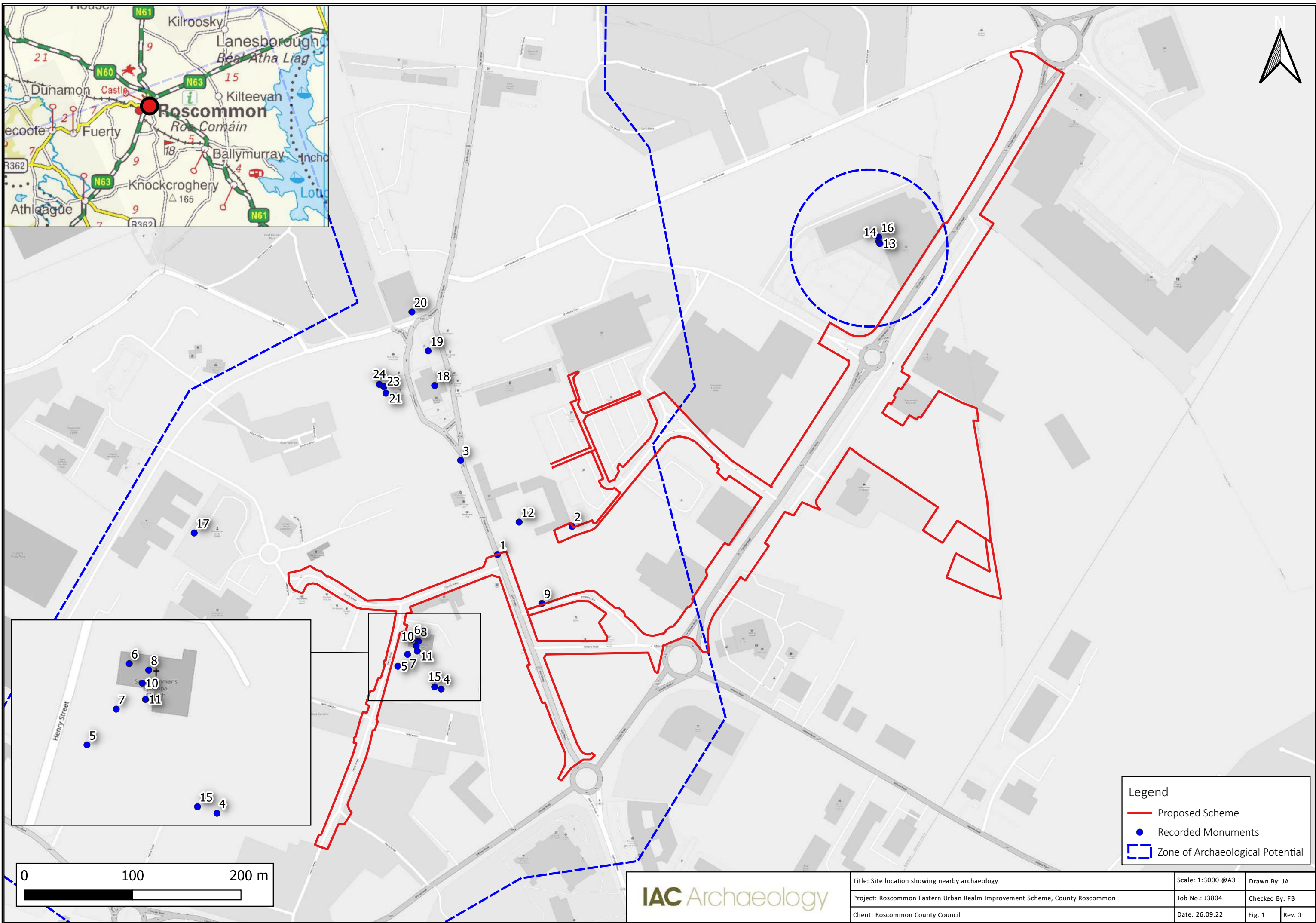
*Full Archaeological Excavation* can be defined as ‘a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design’ (ClfA 2020b).

*Archaeological Monitoring* can be defined as ‘a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be

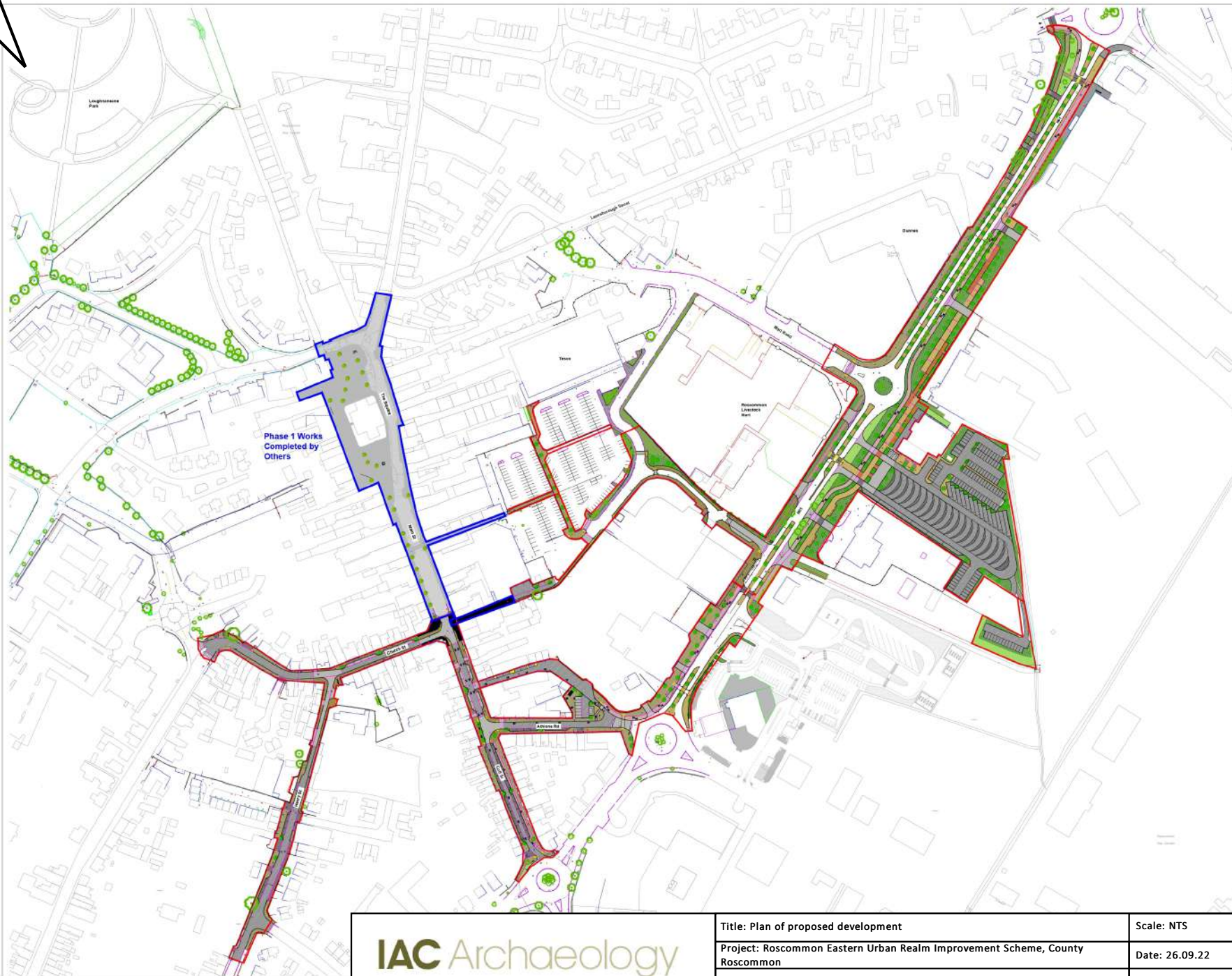
disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive (ClfA 2020c).

*Underwater Archaeological Assessment* consists of a programme of works carried out by a specialist underwater archaeologist, which can involve wade surveys, metal detection surveys and the excavation of test pits within the sea or riverbed. These assessments are able to access and assess the potential of an underwater environment to a much higher degree than terrestrial based assessments.









**Notes**  
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All dimensions are given in millimetres.  
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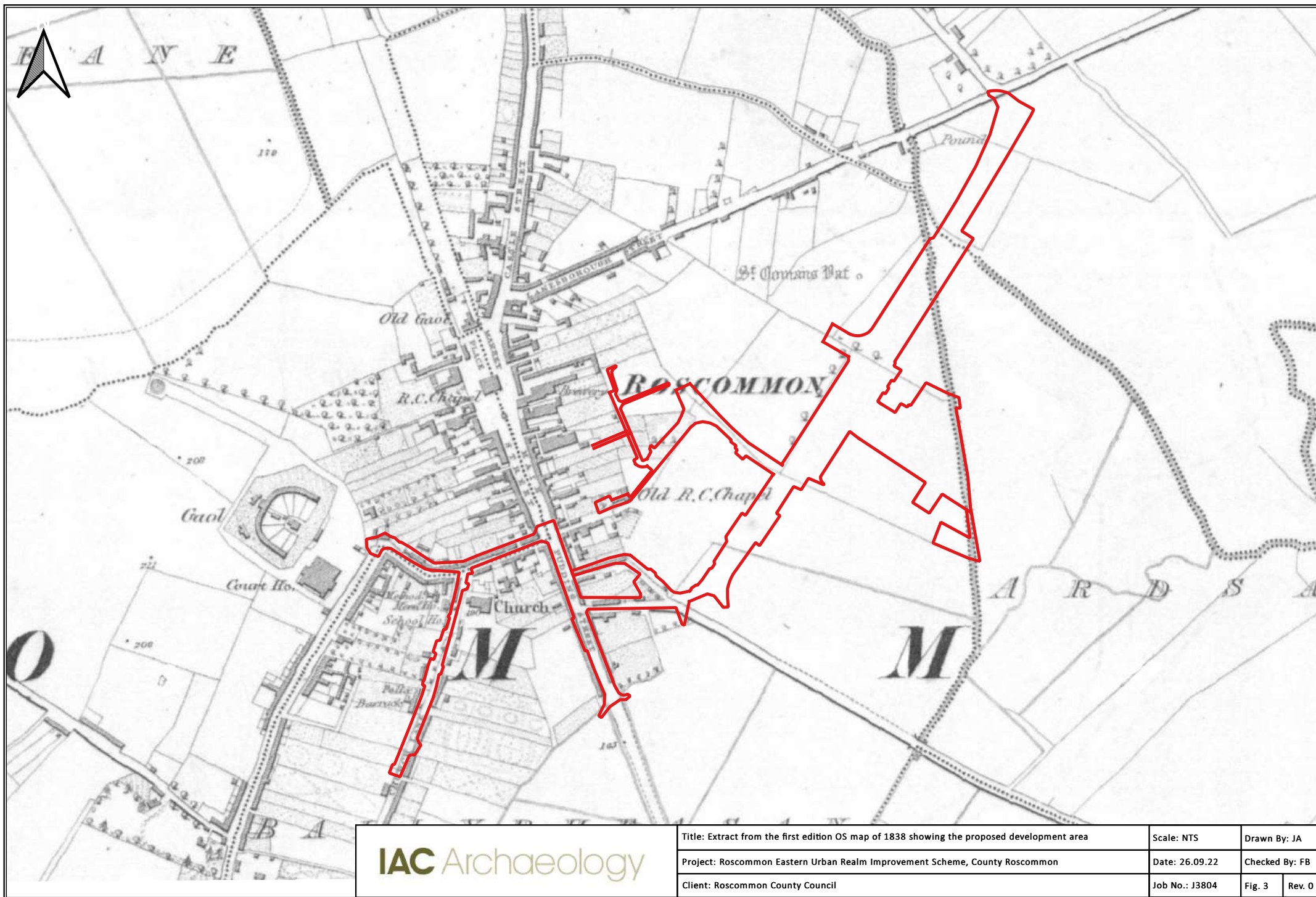
- Proposed upstanding kerb
- Proposed flush kerb
- Asphalt surfacing
- Natural stone paving
- Concrete paving
- Natural stone wet paving
- Cycleway surfacing
- Cycleway wet surfacing
- Immu concrete surfacing
- Concrete wet surfacing
- Concrete plank surfacing with exposed aggregate surfacing
- Planned concrete surfacing
- Existing wet surfacing retained
- Proposed tactile paving
- Existing Lighting Column Location
- Proposed ornamental planting
- Proposed hedge planting
- Grass verge surfacing
- Proposed tree planting
- Existing tree planting retained
- Existing planting retained
- Existing grass retained
- Existing kerbline retained
- Site Boundary


1:1000	1:500	1:250	1:125
0m	10m	20m	30m

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Project: Roscommon Public Realm Enhancement & Cycleways Projects  
Client:

<b>IAC Archaeology</b>	Title: Plan of proposed development		Scale: NTS		Drawn By: JA	
	Project: Roscommon Eastern Urban Realm Improvement Scheme, County Roscommon		Date: 26.09.22		Checked By: FB	
	Client: Roscommon County Council		Job No.: J3804		Fig. 2	Rev. 0



	Title: Extract from the first edition OS map of 1838 showing the proposed development area		Scale: NTS	Drawn By: JA	
	Project: Roscommon Eastern Urban Realm Improvement Scheme, County Roscommon		Date: 26.09.22	Checked By: FB	
	Client: Roscommon County Council		Job No.: J3804	Fig. 3	Rev. 0





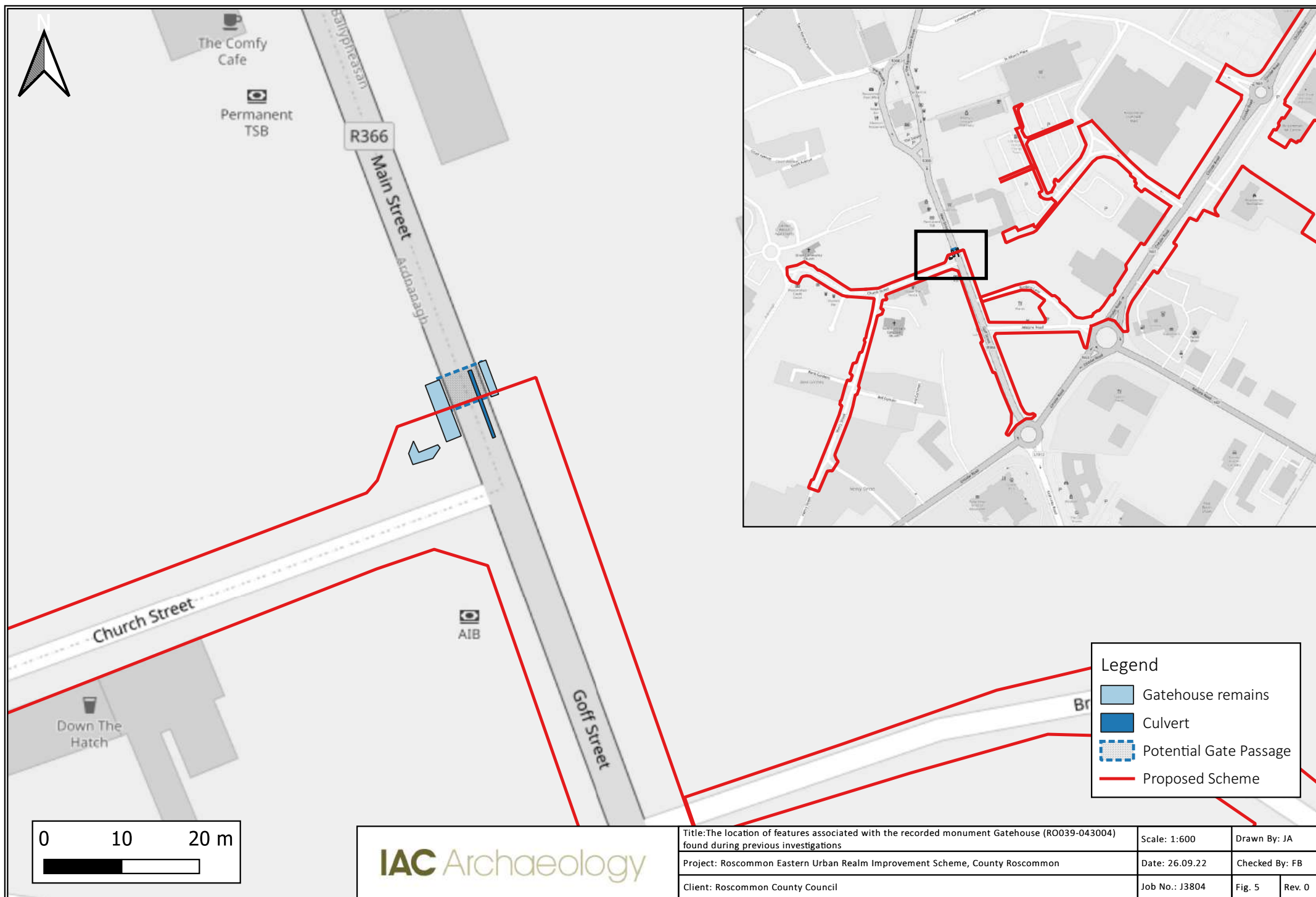






Plate 1: Northern end of Henry Street, facing south



Plate 2: Historic graveyard wall, facing south



Plate 3: Car park to north of the church, facing southeast



Plate 4: Henry Street, facing northeast





Plate 5: Stone-built ruin, facing south



Plate 6: Eastern end of Church Street, facing east



Plate 7: Western end of Church Street, facing west



Plate 8: Southern end of Goff Street, facing north





Plate 9: Athlone Road, facing west



Plate 10: Car-parking area at the junction of Athlone Road and  
Brogan's Lane, facing northwest



Plate 11: Circular Road, facing north



Plate 12: Circular Road, facing south





Plate 13: Rear of Roscommon Arts Centre, facing northwest



Plate 14: Rear of Roscommon Arts Centre, facing northwest



Plate 15: Access lane to Tesco, facing west



Plate 16: Tesco car park, facing west





Plate 17: Chapel Lane, facing west



Plate 18: Chapel Lane, facing northeast