

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
OF
STROKESTOWN PUBLIC REALM,
COUNTY ROSCOMMON**

ON BEHALF OF: ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL

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AUGUST 2023

IAC PROJECT REF.: J4077

DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

DATE	DOCUMENT TITLE	REV.	PREPARED BY	REVIEWED BY	APPROVED BY
16.08.2023	Archaeological Assessment of Strokestown Public Realm, County Roscommon	0	J. Anderson	M. Tobin	M. Tobin
21.08.2023	Archaeological Assessment of Strokestown Public Realm, County Roscommon	1	J. Anderson	M. Tobin	M. Tobin

ABSTRACT

This assessment has been prepared on behalf of Roscommon County Council, to study the impact, if any, on the archaeological and historical resource of the proposed urban redevelopment at Bawn Street and Church Street, Strokestown, County Roscommon (Figure 1, ITM 593212, 780830). It was carried out by Jacqui Anderson of IAC Archaeology.

There are 11 recorded monuments within the study area. Of these, the nearest recorded monuments to the proposed area is an architectural fragment (RO029-012) which originated from Killukin church (RO028-108001), and is now in the care of Strokestown Heritage Centre, c. 63m west of the proposed development area.

No previous archaeological investigations have taken place within the proposed development area to date, and those in the wider study area have not identified any features of archaeological significance. The cartographic sources depict the proposed development area laid out as Bawn Street as early as the 18th century; although it may have earlier origins. It is a wide street lined with Georgian buildings on both sides, designed to align with Strokestown House (RO023-172002) to the east. While this visual corridor is no longer discernible today, it was a key feature of the town in the past. The aerial imagery and field inspection confirmed that Bawn Street and Church Street is still lined with Georgian buildings, many of which retain their original features. No previously unknown features of archaeological potential were identified by this assessment.

There are two jostle stones located to the immediate north of the proposed development area. These are associated with an enclosed Georgian garden on the north side of Bawn Street. While the garden will be retained within the proposed development there is potential for these features to be negatively impacted by groundworks associated with the scheme. It is recommended that the jostle stones be carefully removed, stored and re-erected in their original position following the completion of the re-surfacing works.

Whilst it is clear that the proposed schemes footprint has been subject to development and disturbance during the post-medieval and modern periods it is not clear how this disturbance may have affected the archaeological resource. As such, ground disturbances below the modern road levels (+0.4m), such as the excavation of service diversions etc, may have an adverse impact on previously unrecorded archaeological features or deposits that have the potential to survive beneath the current ground level. It is recommended that all ground disturbances that result in excavations beneath 0.4m (modern road surface and overburden), which are associated with the proposed scheme 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 DoH/LGH.

CONTENTS

ABSTRACT.....	I
CONTENTS	II
List of Figures.....	iii
List of Plates	iii
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 General	1
1.2 The Development	1
2 METHODOLOGY	2
2.1 Paper Survey.....	2
2.2 Field Inspection.....	3
3 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT	5
3.1 Archaeological and Historical Background	5
3.2 Summary of Previous Archaeological Fieldwork.....	9
3.3 Cartographic Analysis	9
3.4 Development Plan	10
3.5 Topographcial Files of the National Museum of Ireland.....	11
3.6 Aerial Photographic Analysis	11
3.7 Field Inspection.....	11
4 CONCLUSIONS.....	13
5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY	14
5.1 Impact Assessment.....	14
5.2 Mitigation	14
6 REFERENCES.....	16
APPENDICES.....	I
Appendix 1 SMR/RMP Sites within the Study Area	i
Appendix 2 Legislation Protecting the Archaeological Resource	viii
Appendix 3 Impact Assessment and the Cultural Heritage Resource	xi
Appendix 4 Mitigation Measures and the Cultural Heritage Resource.....	xiii

FIGURES

PLATES

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1 Extract from Google Earth (2022) showing site location and nearby archaeology
- Figure 2 Plan of proposed development
- Figure 3 Extract from the 1838 ordnance survey map showing the proposed development area
- Figure 4 Extract from the 1892 and 1914 ordnance survey maps showing the proposed development area

LIST OF PLATES

- Plate 1 Aerial photograph of Strokestown dated to 1967 (CUPUP No. ASV026) showing the proposed development area
- Plate 2 Entrance to Strokestown House, facing northeast
- Plate 3 Garden on northern side of Bawn Street, facing northeast
- Plate 4 Jostle stones, facing east
- Plate 5 Proposed development area, facing east
- Plate 6 Western extent of the proposed development area, facing northwest
- Plate 7 Church Street, facing west

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

The following report details an archaeological assessment undertaken in advance of a proposed urban redevelopment at Strokestown, County Roscommon (Figure 1; ITM 593212, 780830). 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. It 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

The proposed Strokestown Public Realm Enhancement Scheme (Figure 2), which will include the following.

- Alteration to existing road carriageway widths & roundabout dimensions
- Provision of footpaths, along with shared pedestrian & cycle routes
- Provision of controlled & uncontrolled pedestrian crossing facilities
- Relocation of Bus Stops Provision from Bridge Street to Church Street
- Alteration to existing parking provision to include the provision of disabled parking spaces.
- Soft Landscaping work to include provision of trees, shrubs & green space through the scheme.
- Provision of street furniture throughout the scheme to include, benches, seating, picnic tables, bollards, cycle stands, etc
- Provision of new road & wayfinding signage, road marking & public lighting
- All other ancillary site works.

2 METHODOLOGY

A study area, defined as 500m from the boundary of the proposed development area, was assessed to inform this report. Research 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);
- Aerial photographs;
- Excavations Bulletin (1970–2023).

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.

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) was 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) from 1970–2023.

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 occupies an existing road network and public space known as Bawn Street and Church Street in Strokestown, County Roscommon. There are 11 recorded monuments within the study area of the proposed development. The nearest recorded monuments to the proposed area is the present location of an architectural fragment (RO029-012) which originated from Killukin church (RO028-108001), and is now in the care of Strokestown Heritage Centre, c. 63m west of the proposed development area. The extensive demesne of Strokestown borders the proposed development area to the immediate east, and is now managed by the Irish Heritage Trust.

3.1.1 Prehistoric Period

Mesolithic Period (c. 8000–4000 BC)

Recent discoveries may suggest the possibility of a human presence in the southwest of Ireland as early as the Upper Palaeolithic (Dowd and Carden 2016), however; the Mesolithic period is the earliest time for which there is clear evidence for prehistoric human colonisation of the island of Ireland. During this period people hunted, foraged and gathered food and appear to have led a primarily mobile lifestyle. The presence of Mesolithic communities is most commonly evidenced by scatters of worked flint material, a by-product of the production of flint implements.

To date there is no archaeological evidence of Mesolithic activity within the immediate environs of the proposed development area.

Neolithic Period (c. 4000–2500 BC)

During this period communities became less mobile and their economy became based on the rearing of stock and cereal cultivation. The transition to the Neolithic was marked by major social change. Communities expanded and established more permanent settlements. This afforded the development of agriculture which demanded an altering of the physical landscape. Forests were rapidly cleared and field boundaries were constructed. Pottery was also being produced, possibly for the first time. The advent of the Neolithic period also provided the megalithic tomb. There are four types of tombs in Ireland, namely the Court Cairn, Portal Tomb, Passage Tomb and Wedge Tomb; of which the latter style straddles the Neolithic to Bronze Age transition.

While recent years have seen a large increase in the number of identified Neolithic settlement and habitation sites, there is no archaeological evidence to substantiate Neolithic settlement within the study area of the proposed development areas.

Bronze Age (c. 2500–800 BC)

This period is marked by the use of metal for the first time. As with the transition from Mesolithic to Neolithic, the transition into the early Bronze Age was accompanied by

changes in society. Megaliths were replaced in favour of individual, subterranean cist or pit burials that were either in isolation or in small cemeteries. These burials contained inhumed or cremated remains and were often, but not always, accompanied by a pottery vessel.

Over 7,000 burnt mounds or *fulacht fia* sites have been recorded in the country and c. 1,500 examples excavated, making them the most common prehistoric monument in Ireland (Waddell 2022, 164). Although burnt mounds of shattered stone occur as a result of various activities that have been practiced from the Mesolithic to the present day, the Bronze Age has long been believed to have seen the peak of this activity. Dating evidence from a growing number of burnt mounds, suggests activities resulting in burnt mounds were being carried over a span of 3,500 years in Ireland (Hawkes 2018). They are typically located in areas where there is a readily available water source, often in proximity to a river or stream or in places with a high-water table. In the field burnt mounds may be identified as charcoal-rich mounds or spreads of heat shattered stones, however, in many cases, the sites have been disturbed by later agricultural activity and are no longer visible on the field surface. Nevertheless, even disturbed spreads of burnt mound material often preserve the underlying associated features, such as troughs, pits and gullies, intact.

There are no Bronze Age sites recorded within the study area; however, a *fulacht fia* (RO023-165002) is recorded c. 466m to the northeast within the townland of Lisroyne. In addition, a standing stone (RO023-170) is recorded c. 876m to the north-northeast of the proposed development area, in the townland of Kildallog. While standing stones are difficult to date without excavation, they generally to the Bronze Age or Iron Age. Taken together these scant remains in the wider area of Strokestown, indicate that prehistoric populations were utilising this landscape.

Iron Age (c. 800 BC–AD 500)

There is increasing evidence for Iron Age settlement and activity in recent years as a result of development-led excavations as well as projects such as Late Iron Age and Roman Ireland (Cahill Wilson 2014). Yet this period is distinguishable from the rather rich remains of the preceding Bronze Age and subsequent early medieval period, by a relative paucity within the current archaeological record. The Iron Age in Ireland is problematic for archaeologists as few artefacts dating exclusively to this period have been found and without extensive excavation it cannot be determined whether several monument types, such as ring-barrows or standing stones, date to the late Bronze Age or Iron Age. It is likely that there was significant continuity in the Iron Age, with earlier monuments re-used in many cases.

As mentioned above, there is evidence that later prehistoric communities were present in the wider landscape, however, nothing of confirmed Iron Age date has been uncovered in the study area or surrounding area to date.

3.1.2 Early Medieval Period (c. AD 500–1100)

The early medieval period is depicted in the surviving sources as an almost entirely rural based society. Territorial divisions were based on the *túath*, or petty kingdom,

with Byrne (1973) estimating that there may have been at least 150 kings in Ireland at any given time. This period, with a new religious culture and evolving technologies, saw significant woodland clearance and the expansion of grassland. A new type of plough and the horizontal mill were two innovations that improved agriculture and allowed for the population to increase. Consequently, from c. AD 500 onwards, the landscape became well settled, as evidenced by the profuse distribution of ringforts, a dispersed distribution of enclosed settlements, normally associated with various grades of well-to-do farming and aristocratic classes in early medieval Ireland (Stout and Stout 1997, 20).

The ringfort or rath is considered to be the most common indicator of settlement during the early medieval period (Stout 1997). 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). Ringforts were often constructed to protect rural farmsteads and are usually defined as a broadly circular enclosure delineated by a bank and ditch. Ringforts can be divided into three broad categories – univallate sites, with one bank or ditch; multivallate sites with as many as four levels of enclosing features and platform or raised ringforts, where the interior of the ringfort has been built up. These enclosed sites were intimately connected to the division of land and the status of the occupant. A cluster of ringforts (RO023-165-7) is located within the study area, to the northwest of the proposed development area.

A second, and less common, form of secular site in Ireland in the early medieval period, is the *crannóg*. *Crannógs* are settlement sites sited on man-made platforms, within a lake or watercourse. In some cases, small inlands were utilised as a base but many are completely manmade with a combination of wood, stone and earth forming the platform. It has long been suggested that these sites were located in the water for security.

In the wider area of Strokestown, there are a large number of both ringforts and *crannógs*, the latter of which focus on Lough Lea c. 1km to the northwest, which would seem to suggest a large and thriving early medieval population in the wider area. Furthermore, many sites recorded as enclosures have the potential to date to the early medieval period. An enclosure (RO023-165001) is recorded c. 466m to the northwest of the proposed development area.

3.1.3 Medieval Period (c. AD 1100–1600)

The piecemeal conquest by the Anglo-Normans of Ireland, which commenced in AD 1169, had a fundamental impact on the Irish landscape. Their presence was strongest in the East of the Country, and it is mainly in this region that land was carved up and granted to the newly arrived lords who participated. The main success of the Anglo-Norman occupation was the welding of scattered territories into a cohesive unit through the introduction of the English form of shire government. The rural landscape became a network of manorial centres; these units would generally contain a castle (motte and bailey), a manorial house and a number of dwellings, with extensive

surrounding acreage. During the 14th to 16th centuries, tower houses were the typical residence of the Irish gentry and are a common feature in the Irish landscape.

Anglo-Norman influence gradually spread across Ireland, although some regions were harder to penetrate than others. Roscommon Town to the south of Strokestown still possesses an impressive medieval castle (RO039-043001), which was built in 1269 by Robert de Ufford, Justiciar of Ireland, on lands he had seized from the Augustinian Priory. The castle had a long and eventful history. It was attacked at least three times by O' Connor before construction was fully completed c. 1290 (SMR file).

The site of a castle (RO023-017001) is recorded at Strokestown, at a site which is now occupied by Strokestown House (RO023-172002) c. 248m east of the proposed development area. A battle took place here in 1411, after which O'Connor Roe took possession of the area (Lennon 2009). The castle was reputedly destroyed by Mac Diarmada in 1552. The bawn and flankers were surviving at that time. By the 1640s the land was mortgaged to Lucas Dillon, who later sold it to Nicholas Mahon (c. 1662). A wall in the basement of Strokestown House is thought to be the structural remains of the castle (SMR file).

3.1.4 Post-Medieval Period (c. AD 1600–1800)

The ending of the Williamite Wars saw the beginning of a comparative politically calm era, which allowed the country's landowners the security to experiment with the latest styles of architecture without the need to refer to defensive matters. Initially, constraints on available resources resulted in mansions of a relatively modest scale and relatively plain appearance. However, as the Irish aristocracy's sense of security grew over the following decades, their greater access to wealth helped foster a shift towards more ostentatious buildings.

Strokestown House (RO023-172002) is located c. 248m east of the proposed development area. In the 1730s the house which stands on the site today, was built by Thomas Mahon to a design by Richard Castle in the Palladian style. It is a rectangular seven bay, three storey house over a basement with two wings of two storeys and four bays to the northwest and southwest connected to the house by curving walls with niches (SMR file).

The house was renovated in the early 19th century when Lord Hartland added a four column ionic portico entrance. The parkland was also redesigned at this time and Lord Hartland also laid out the town of Strokestown in a grand manner. Bawn Street (the proposed development area) in Strokestown was aligned with the main west-facing façade of the house; however, the alignment is less obvious at ground level today. The first edition OS map of 1837 shows an extensive demesne associated with the house. It is characterised by woodland belts and clumps and traversed by a small river. A mausoleum (RO029-024001) is recorded within the demesne, c. 236m to the southeast of the proposed development area. A wall memorial (RO029-024002) is recorded within the mausoleum, which houses the remains of Nicholas Mahon who died in 1680 and his wife Magdalene who died in 1683 (SMR file).

Today, Strokestown House has been restored and houses the National Famine Museum. The parkland, while reduced in size from that shown on the first edition OS map, has been maintained and the gardens restored.

3.2 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2022) has revealed that no previous archaeological investigations have taken place to date within the proposed development area to date.

Archaeological testing was carried out c. 386m southeast under licence 02E0675, immediately south of ringfort (RO023-167), but failed to identify any features of archaeological significance (Bennett 2002:1628).

Archaeological testing was carried out in close proximity to a ringfort (RO023-165), c. 492m northwest, but did not identify any features or deposits of archaeological significance (Bennett 2007:1500, Licence No. 06E1230).

Archaeological excavation of the area surrounding RO023-165 was later carried out under licence 10E0328. This uncovered a large number of features c. 466m northwest of the proposed development area, including a ringfort with an annexe feature, a *fulacht fia*, a well and a number of field boundaries and drainage features. These features were subsequently scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP under RO023-165001-3).

3.3 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

William Petty, Down Survey: *Barony of Roscommon in County Roscommon*, c. 1655

This map is included in a group of maps which were destroyed in a fire in 1711. There are no known copies and it therefore unknown to what extent the proposed development area and the settlement at Strokestown was depicted on this early map.

George Taylor and Andrew Skinner, *Maps of the Roads of Ireland*, 1777

This map shows the settlement at Strokestown and the proposed development area. By this time, Strokestown House (RO023-172002) has been established, labelled here as in the possession of the Mahon family. The proposed development area (later known as Bawn Street) is shown as leading to the demesne and is lined with structures. A church is also shown to the west.

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 proposed development area is laid out as Bawn Street and Church Street in this mapping. It is a wide street which aligns with Strokestown House to the east. The north and south sides of Bawn Street and Church Street are lined with terraced structures. One of the structures on the north side of Bawn Street possesses a small front garden. Church Street as its name suggests

extends westwards towards St. Johns Church. To the immediate east, the demesne of Strokestown House is shown in detail, including a fish pond. The mausoleum (RO029-024001) is shown as a 'ruin' adjacent to a small pond to the southeast of the proposed development area.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1889-95, scale 1:10,560

There are no changes to the proposed development area by the time of this map.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1892/1914, scale 1:2,500 (Figure 4)

By the time of this map, Bawn Street and Church Street remain unchanged. Two of the structures lining the north and south of Bawn street are labelled as hotels. To the immediate east, the demesne of Strokestown House is shown in detail once more. A number of significant changes have occurred within the parkland, including the removal of the fish pond shown on the previous mapping. The mausoleum (RO029-024001) is shown and labelled as such. A small graveyard is shown at St. John's Church adjacent to the western end of the proposed development area on Church Street.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1914/15, scale 1:10,560

There is no change shown within the proposed development area by the time of this map.

3.4 DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Roscommon County Development Plan (2022–2028) recognises 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).

There are no recorded monuments within the footprint of the proposed development area. There are 11 archaeological sites within the 500m study area, of which seven are scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP (Table 1; Figure 1; Appendix 1). One of these records relates to an architectural fragment (RO029-012), which originated from Killukin church (RO028-108001), and is now in the care of Strokestown Heritage Centre. The location of this stone marked on archaeology.ie and on the figures accompanying this report represents the current location of the architectural fragment.

None of the recorded monuments within the study area of the proposed development area are further protected as National Monuments in State Care or are subject to Preservation Orders.

TABLE 1: Recorded archaeological sites in proximity to the study area

RMP NO.	LOCATION	CLASSIFICATION	DISTANCE *
RO029-012	Lisroyne	Architectural fragment	c. 63m west
RO029-024001	Farnbeg	Mausoleum	c. 236m southeast
RO029-024002	Farnbeg	Wall monument	c. 236m southeast

RMP NO.	LOCATION	CLASSIFICATION	DISTANCE *
RO023-172002	Cloonradoon, Vesnoy	House - 18th/19th century	c. 248m east
RO023-172001	Cloonradoon, Vesnoy	Castle - unclassified	c. 256m east
RO023-167	Lisroyne	Ringfort - rath	c. 273m northwest
RO023-166	Lisroyne	Ringfort- rath	c. 453m northwest
RO023-165001	Lisroyne	Enclosure	c. 466m northwest
RO023-165002	Lisroyne	Fulacht fia	c. 466m northwest
RO023-165003	Lisroyne	Well	c. 466m northwest
RO023-165	Lisroyne	Ringfort - rath	c. 492m northwest

*Note: distance given is to the nearest boundary of the proposed development area

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; however, there are no recorded stray finds from the study area or the wider Strokestown area.

3.6 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

The earliest available aerial photography of the proposed development area is held by the University of Cambridge and dates to 1967 (CUPAP No. ASV026, Plate 1). It shows the location of the proposed development area as within Bawn Street. The street is wide and aligned with Strokestown House in the background. Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development area held by the Ordnance Survey (1995–2013), Google Earth (2006–2022), Bing Maps, and Apple Maps was also carried out as part of this assessment. In the 1995 OSI imagery the junction of Bawn Street/Church Street and Bridge Street is visible as a crossroads junction, however, by 1999 a roundabout (as present currently) has been constructed. The proposed development area has remained largely unchanged since 1999. No previously unknown features of archaeological significance were identified from the aerial imagery.

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 consists of Bawn Street and Church Street within the town of Strokestown, County Roscommon. The street is wide and leads to the gated entrance of Strokestown House on the eastern boundary of the proposed development area (Plate 2). The street is lined with Georgian buildings, one of which on the northern side of Bawn Street possesses a small front garden which does not

extend into the proposed development area (Plate 3). The front garden is enclosed by a plinth wall and railing, with a jostle stone at each corner (Plate 4). The main carriageway is lined by a number of trees, which are contained within circular areas delineated by a stone kerb. At the southern side of Bawn Street, a second narrower carriageway is in use. The vast majority of the proposed development, outside of the main carriageway is used for car parking (Plate 5). The western extent of the proposed development area is occupied by a roundabout (Plate 6).

Church Street comprises a continuation of Bawn Street in a westwards direction, and consists of a similar wide street, lined with mature trees and with car-parking on either side (Plate 7).

No previously unknown features of archaeological potential were identified during the field inspection.

4 CONCLUSIONS

The proposed development area occupies an existing road network and public space known as Bawn Street and Church Street in Strokestown, County Roscommon. There are 11 recorded monuments within the study area. The nearest of these records to the proposed development relate to an architectural fragment (RO029-012), which originated from Killukin church (RO028-108001), and is now in the care of Strokestown Heritage Centre, c. 63m to the west. The Strokestown demesne covers an extensive landscape and is located to the immediate east of the proposed development area.

No previous archaeological investigations have taken place within the proposed development area to date and nothing of archaeological significance was identified by works within the wider study area.

The cartographic sources depict Strokestown House (RO023-172002) and its associated parkland as a key focus of the development of the town. Bawn Street and Church Street (the proposed development area) was laid out in alignment with the entrance to the demesne and the front elevation of the house itself. This is visible in historic mapping as early as the 18th century, although it may have earlier origins. Aerial photography and satellite imagery of the proposed development area indicates that the proposed development has seen little development since it was laid out.

A field inspection confirmed that the proposed development area at Bawn Street and Church Street is lined with Georgian buildings. It is wide enough to facilitate a wide carriageway into Strokestown House as well as car-parking to the north and south and a second, narrower carriageway to the south at Bawn Street. Nothing of archaeological significance was identified during the field inspection.

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

- Field inspection recorded the presence of two jostle stones within the proposed development area. These are associated with an enclosed Georgian garden on the north side of Bawn Street, which will be retained as part of the proposed development. There is potential for these features to be negatively impacted by groundworks associated with the scheme.
- Whilst it is clear that the proposed schemes footprint has been subject to development and disturbance during the post-medieval and modern periods it is not clear how this disturbance may have affected the archaeological resource. As such, ground disturbances below the modern road levels (+0.4m), such as the excavation of service diversions etc, may have an adverse impact on previously unrecorded archaeological features or deposits that have the potential to survive beneath the current ground level.

5.2 MITIGATION

- It is recommended that the jostle stones be carefully removed, stored and re-erected in their original position following the completion of the re-surfacing works.
- It is recommended that all ground disturbances that result in excavations beneath 0.4m (modern road surface and overburden), which are associated with the proposed scheme 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.

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

William Petty, Down Survey *Map of the Barony of Roscommon*, c. 1655

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ELECTRONIC SOURCES

www.excavations.ie – Summary of archaeological excavation from 1970–2023.

www.archaeology.ie – DoHLGH website listing all SMR/RMP sites.

www.heritagemaps.ie – The Heritage Council web-based spatial data viewer which focuses on the built, cultural and natural heritage.

www.geohive.ie – Ordnance Survey Ireland National Townland and Historical Map Viewer (including Aerial imagery 1995, 1999, 2000, 2004, 2005 and 2013)

www.googleearth.com – Satellite imagery (2006–2022).

www.apple.com/maps/ - Satellite imagery

www.bing.com/maps/ - Satellite imagery

www.cambridgeairphotos.com - The Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photography (CUCAP) dating from 1967.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SMR/RMP SITES WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

SMR NO.	RO029-012
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Lisroyne
PARISH	Bumlin
BARONY	Roscommon
I.T.M.	592661, 780797
CLASSIFICATION	Architectural fragment
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 63m west
DESCRIPTION	A rectangular limestone block (dims. 0.32m x 0.25m; L 0.44m) with a carved face at one end from Killukin church (RO028-108001-) (Siggins 1990, 45) is now in Strokestown Heritage Centre.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	RO029-024001
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Farnbeg
PARISH	Bumlin
BARONY	Roscommon
I.T.M.	593451, 780630
CLASSIFICATION	Mausoleum
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 236m southeast
DESCRIPTION	On a level landscape c. 220m SSW of Strokestown House (RO029-025002*) and within the demesne. This was built by Nicholas Mahon c. 1667 (Hayward 1955, 204). It is a rectangular structure (ext. dims 13.4m E-W; 7.95m N-S) constructed of masonry walls which are almost complete (H 2.7m; T 0.8m) and have roughly dressed quoins. There is an inserted twin-light pointed window (H 2.3m; Wth 0.9m) with chamfered surrounds in the E gable. The locked door, flanked by two plain shields, is at the W end of the S wall, and the interior contains a large hexagonal tomb or mausoleum, and a wall memorial (RO029-024002-) against the N end of the E wall. This is the tomb of Nicholas Mahon and his wife Magdalene (nee French) who died in 1680 and 1683 respectively, according to the inscription.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	RO029-024002
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Farnbeg

PARISH	Bumlin
BARONY	Roscommon
I.T.M.	593458, 780634
CLASSIFICATION	Wall monument
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 236m southeast
DESCRIPTION	On a level landscape c. 220m SSW of Strokestown House (RO029-025002*) and within the mausoleum (RO028-024001-), against the N end of the E wall. The wall monument of Nicholas Mahon and his wife Magdalene (nee French) who died in 1680 and 1683 respectively according to the inscription, is a shallow altar surmounted by three pilasters and entablature. The inscription reads: UNDER THIS MONUMENT / LIE THE BONES OF CAPTAIN / NICHOLAS MAHON OF STR / OKESTOWN WHO DYED THE 10th / OF OCTOBER 1680 IN THE 60th / YEAR OF HIS AGE AND OF HIS / DEARLY BELOVED WIFE MAE / GDALENE MAHON ALIS FRE- / NCH WHO DYED THE 13th OF M- / ARCH 1683 N THE 56th YEAR / OF HER AGE IN WHOSE ME- / MORIES THEIR ELDEST SON JO / HN MAHON OF STROKEST- / OWN ESQ: CAUSED THIS M / ONUMENT TO BE ERRECTED.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	RO023-172001
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Cloonradoon, Vesnoy
PARISH	Bumlin
BARONY	Roscommon
I.T.M.	593554, 780850
CLASSIFICATION	Castle - unclassified
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 256m east
DESCRIPTION	Situated on a level landscape. A castle of O'Connor Roe existed at Strokestown, which was called Beal Aith na mBuille - the mouth of the ford of the strokes (battle), although it can be interpreted as the town of the mills (Donlon 1990; Kelly 2006). A battle was fought here amongst the MacBrannan in 1411 (ALC, vol. 2, 139), after which O'Connor Roe took possession of the area (Lennon 2009, 8). The castle was destroyed by Mac Diarmada in 1552 (ALC vol. 2, 361). The castle of Bealnemully was granted to Teige Oge O'Connor Roe in 1585 (Freeman 1936, 162), but in 1593 'a little stone fortress called Balllinemullin' was granted to Turlogh Byrne after the attainder of Teige Oge (Nicholls 1994, vol. 3, 223, No. 1593). In 1683 Bealnemully was described as a strong spring running off to the SW with a stone fort and a castle nearby. The bawn and flankers were then surviving (O'Flanagan 1931, vol. 1, 68-9). By the 1640s the land was mortgaged to Lucas Dillon of Lough Glinn (RO020-003----), who sold the lands in 1662 to Nicholas Mahon. The spring is just W of Strokestown Park House (RO023-172002-) which is thought to occupy the site of the castle. A wall in the basement (T c. 3m) is thought to be part of it. Capt. Nicholas Mahon, and his son John, built a house (RO023-172002-) on the site which may have been completed by 1696 and was commemorated in a date

	<p>stone (Breffny and ffolliott 1975, 102-5).</p> <p>In the 1730s the present house was built by Thomas Mahon to a design by Richard Castle on Palladian principles, and is a rectangular W-facing seven bay, three storey house over a basement which may be built around the earlier core. Two wings or pavilions of two storeys and four bays to the NW and SW of the house are connected to the house by curving walls with niches, that to the N being the kitchens, that to the S being stables with a groin-vaulted roof supported by a single line of Doric columns.</p> <p>The house was altered in the early 19th century when Lord Hartland added a four column ionic portico entrance; he also re-designed the parkland and laid out the town of Strokestown in a grand manner. The house continued to be occupied by members of the Pakenham Mahon family until 1981, and is now the Irish Famine Museum. (Dodd 1988; Bence-Jones 1988, 267)</p> <p>For the Famine Museum see this web-page accessed on 21/07/2015 http://www.strokestownpark.ie/famine-museum</p>
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	RO023-172002
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Cloonradoon, Vesnoy
PARISH	Bumlin
BARONY	Roscommon
I.T.M.	593546, 780852
CLASSIFICATION	House - 18th/19th century
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 248m east
DESCRIPTION	<p>On a level landscape. An castle (RO028-172001-) of O'Connor Roe existed at Strokestown, and in 1683 the bawn and flankers survived, according to a contemporary account (O'Flanagan 1931, vol. 1, 68-9). The location may have been where Strokestown Park House is now and a wall in the basement (T c. 3m) is thought to be part of it. Capt. Nicholas Mahon, and his son John, built a house on the site which may have been completed by 1696 and was commemorated in a date stone (Breffny and ffolliott 1975, 102-5).</p> <p>In the 1730s the present house was built by Thomas Mahon to a design by Richard Castle on Palladian principles, and is a rectangular W-facing seven bay, three storey house over a basement which may be built around the earlier core. Two wings or pavilions of two storeys and four bays to the NW and SW of the house are connected to the house by curving walls with niches, that to the N being the kitchens, that to the S being stables with a groin-vaulted roof supported by a single line of Doric columns.</p> <p>The house was altered in the early 19th century when Lord Hartland added a four column ionic portico entrance; he also re-designed the parkland and laid out the town of Strokestown in a grand manner. The house continued to be occupied by members of the Pakenham Mahon family until 1981, and is now the Irish Famine Museum. The mausoleum of the Mahon family (RO029-024----) is c. 220m to the SSW. (Dodd 1988; Bence-Jones 1978, 267; Lennon, M 2013) For the Famine Museum see this web-page accessed on 21/07/2015 http://www.strokestownpark.ie/famine-museum</p>

REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file
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SMR NO.	RO023-167
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Lisroyne
PARISH	Bumlin
BARONY	Roscommon
I.T.M.	592809, 781091
CLASSIFICATION	Ringfort - rath
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 273m northwest
DESCRIPTION	On a slight N-facing slope. Described in 1965 as a circular area (diam. c. 40m) defined by an earthen bank (Wth c. 1.5-2.5m; int. H 0.6m; ext. H 1.5m) with an outer fosse (Wth c. 6m; D c. 0.6m) and an entrance at SE (SMR file). It is not now visible in pasture. Archaeological testing (02E0675) immediately to the S failed to produce any related material (Read 2004i).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	RO023-166
RMP STATUS	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Lisroyne
PARISH	Bumlin
BARONY	Roscommon
I.T.M.	592555, 781211
CLASSIFICATION	Ringfort - rath
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 453m northwest
DESCRIPTION	Towards the W end of a low E-W ridge, on the N-facing slope. Oval scrub-covered area (dims 36.7m NE-SW; 25.5m NW-SE) which slopes down to the NE (H of slope 1.6m), defined by an overgrown earthen bank (Wth 5.7-8.6m; int. H 0.3-0.8m; ext. H 0.3-0.8m generally to 1.5m at NE), with an outer fosse (Wth of top 7.3-8.3m; Wth of base 3.5-5m; D 0.3m) ESE-WSW. There is no identifiable original entrance. Rath (RO023-165----) is c. 160m to the SW. Archaeological testing (11E0076) immediately to the W produced no related material (Hurley 2011).
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	RO023-165001
RMP STATUS	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Lisroyne
PARISH	Bumlin
BARONY	Roscommon
I.T.M.	592402, 781121
CLASSIFICATION	Enclosure

DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 466m northwest
DESCRIPTION	Situated on a NW-facing slope overlooking Lough Lea c. 200m to the NW and attached to the NE of rath (RO023-165----). It was excavated (10E0328) by Derek Gallagher in advance of development (Ó Séaghdha 2010; Gallagher 2013). This is a D-shaped area (dims 27m NW-SE; 16-24m NE-SW) defined by a fosse (Wth 2.6-3.2m; D c. 1m) that was water-logged in places, especially at the N. It post-dated the fosse of the rath and surrounded the remains of a fulacht fia (RO023-165002-) and a well (RO023-165003-). (Bermingham, and Ó Séaghdha 2012, 8)
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	RO023-165002
RMP STATUS	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Lisroyne
PARISH	Bumlin
BARONY	Roscommon
I.T.M.	592402,781121
CLASSIFICATION	Fulacht fia
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 466m northwest
DESCRIPTION	Situated on a NW-facing slope overlooking Lough Lea c. 200m to the NW. It is within the enclosure (RO023-165001-) attached to rath (RO023-165----). It was excavated (10E0328) by Derek Gallagher in advance of development (Ó Séaghdha 2010; Gallagher 2013). The burnt mound was an irregular shape (diam. c. 9m; T 0.3m) and overlay four pits and a subrectangular trough (dims 2.2m x 1.9m; D 0.25m) which had post-holes at the rounded corners. There were over 50 stake-holes, about half of which were in a re-cut on the E side of the trough. A sample from a post-hole produced a calibrated C14 date of 1259-1002 cal. BC (Bermingham and Ó Séaghdha 2012, 5). The burnt mound material also overlay a well (RO023-165003-) at its W edge and c. 4m W of the trough, but the well is unrelated.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	RO023-165003
RMP STATUS	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Lisroyne
PARISH	Bumlin
BARONY	Roscommon
I.T.M.	592402,781121
CLASSIFICATION	Well
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 466m northwest
DESCRIPTION	Situated on a NW-facing slope overlooking Lough Lea c. 200m to the NW, and within the enclosure (RO023-165001-) attached to rath (RO023-165---

	<p>-. It was excavated (10E0328) by Derek Gallagher in advance of development (Ó Séaghdha 2010; Gallagher 2013). The burnt mound material (RO023-165002-) also overlay a well at its W edge and c. 4m W of the trough. The well is in unrelated to the fulacht fia and was funnel-shaped at the top (dims 2.4m E-W; 2m N-S) leading to a subcircular shaft (diam. of base 0.66m; total D 1.6m). The well was unlined and fragments of a wooden bowl were found at the water-logged base, where two posts stood upright, probably to support a superstructure for the well. The bowl produced a C14 date of cal. AD 403-544. (Bermingham and Ó Séaghdha 2012, 10)</p>
REFERENCE	<p>www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file</p>

SMR NO.	RO023-165
RMP STATUS	Not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP
TOWNLAND	Lisroyne
PARISH	Bumlin
BARONY	Roscommon
I.T.M.	592402,781121
CLASSIFICATION	Ringfort - rath
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 492m northwest
DESCRIPTION	<p>Marked as a oval enclosure (dims c. 30m N-S; c. 20m E-W) on the 1837 ed. and as a circular embanked enclosure on the 1914 ed. of the OS 6-inch map. It is situated on a NW-facing slope overlooking Lough Lea c. 200m to the NW. It was described in 1996 (SMR file) as a circular, slightly sunken grass-covered area (diam. 22m N-S; 21m E-W), which slopes down to the N (H of slope c. 2m), defined by an earthen bank (Wth 6m; int. H 0.2-0.7m; ext. H 0.3-0.4m) which is reduced to a scarp down to the interior (H 0.2m) SW-NW. A N-S field bank which bisected the interior on 1837 and 1914 eds of the OS 6-inch map had been removed.</p> <p>The profile of the monument had disappeared by 2006 when a proposal by the GAA to develop the area as a sports pitch required a geophysical survey (09R170) which identified an anomaly at the location. This feature was the fosse of the rath and the site was excavated (10E0328) by Derek Gallagher (Ó Séaghdha 2010; Gallagher 2013). It proved to be a complex area as the rath has an annexe (RO023-165001-) attached to the NE which surrounds a fulacht fia (RO023-165002-) and a well (RO023-165003-).</p> <p>As excavated the rath appeared as a subcircular area (int. dims 31m N-S; 28m E-W) defined by a V-sectioned fosse (Wth 2.8m; D 1.1m). There may have been an entrance at SW, which is obscured by a re-cut of the fosse that produced post-medieval and modern pottery, the skull of an infant and some adult bones. No internal features survived apart from evidence of the N-S field bank, some post-holes and the bases of pits that may be post-abandonment, including a large pit (dims 7.1m E-W; 2.1m N-S; D 0.8m) with animal bones. An undecorated copper-alloy strap-tag was recovered from the topsoil, and a possible iron ring-headed pin was in a secondary fill of the fosse of the annexe. A charcoal sample from the</p>

	<p>bottom of the rath ditch produced a C14 date of cal. AD 688-885 (Bermingham, and Ó Séaghdha 2012, 8). The amount of animal bone recovered was comparatively small but as might be expected it was dominated in terms of the animals represented by cattle (5), pig (1) sheep/goat (1), horse (1) and red deer (1) (ibid. 14).</p> <p>The annexe (RO023-165001-) is a D-shaped area (dims 27m NW-SE; 16-24m NE-SW) defined by a fosse (Wth 2.6-3.2m; D c. 1m) that was water-logged in places, especially at the N. It post-dated the fosse of the rath and surrounded the remains of a fulacht fia (RO023-165002-) and a well (RO023-165003-). The burnt mound was an irregular shape (diam. c. 9m; T 0.3m) and overlay four pits and a subrectangular trough (dims 2.2m x 1.9m; D 0.25m) which had post-holes at the rounded corners. There were over 50 stake-holes, about half of which were in a re-cut on the E side of the trough. A sample from a post-hole produced a calibrated C14 date of 1259-1002 cal. BC (ibid. 5).</p> <p>The burnt mound material also overlay a well (RO023-165003-) at its W edge and c. 4m W of the trough. The well is in unrelated to the fulacht fia and was funnel-shaped at the top (dims 2.4m E-W; 2m N-S) leading to a subcircular shaft (diam. of base 0.66m; total D 1.6m). The well was unlined and fragments of a wooden bowl were found at the water-logged base, where two posts stood upright, probably to support a superstructure for the well. The bowl produced a C14 date of cal. AD 403-544. (ibid. 10)</p> <p>Crannog (RO023-208----) is c. 105m to the NW, crannog (RO023-189----) is c. 200m to the W, and rath (RO023-166----) is c. 160m to the NE. Archaeological testing (06E1230) c. 100m to the E during 2006 failed to produce any related material (Cagney 2010).</p>
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ 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.

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 2022). 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.



IAC Archaeology

Title: Plan of proposed development

Scale: NTS

Drawn By: JA

Project: Strokestown Public Realm, County Roscommon

Date: 16.08.23

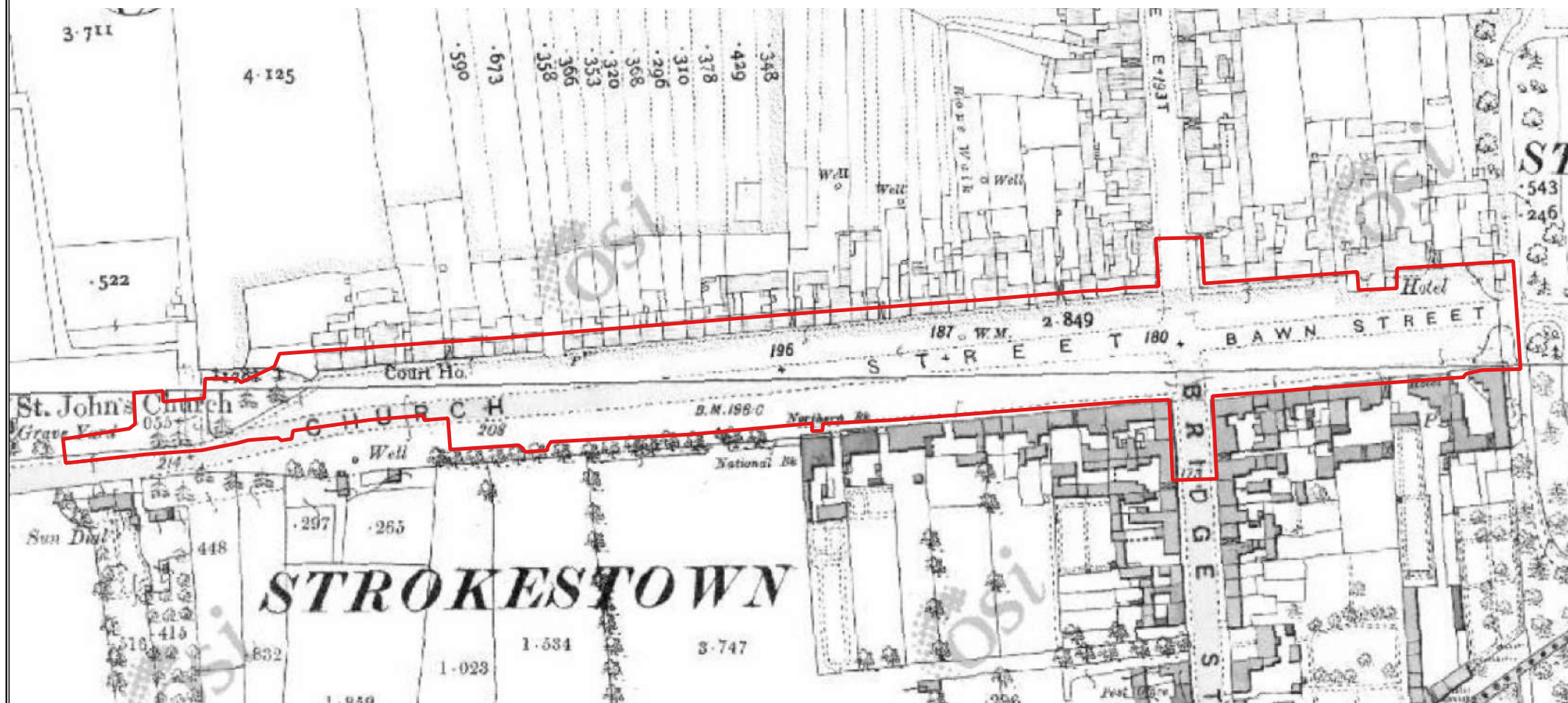
Checked By: FB

Client: Roscommon County Council

Job No.: J4077

Fig. 2

Rev. 0



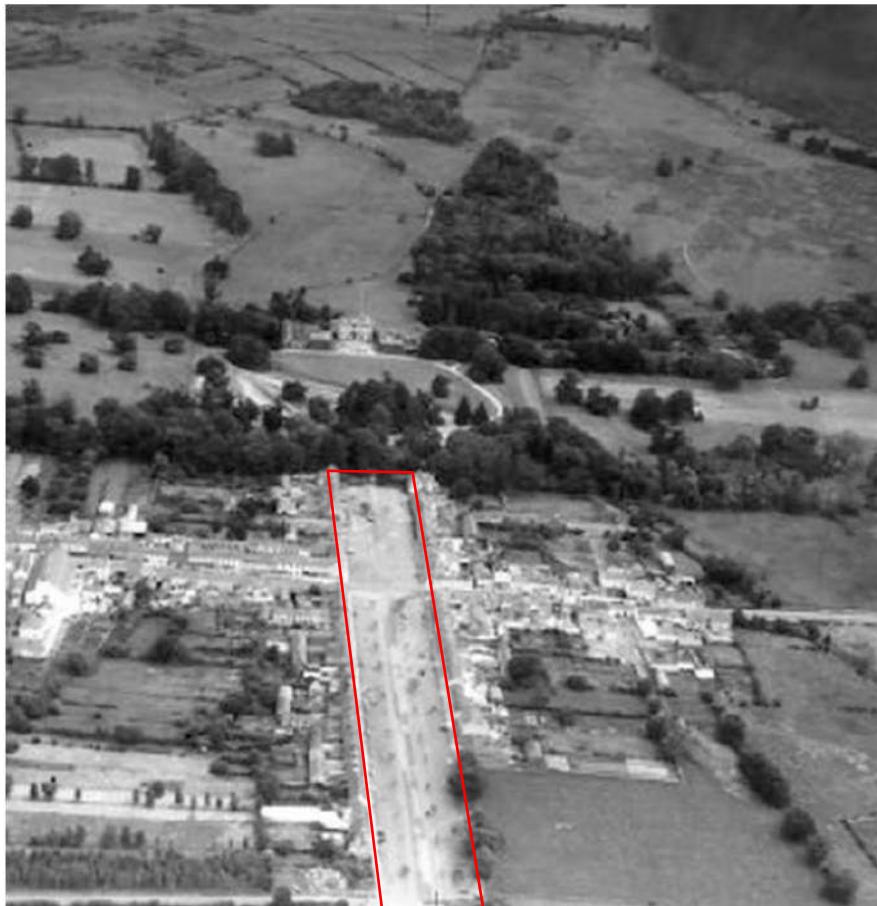


Plate 1 – Aerial photograph of Strokestown dated to 1967 (CUPUP No. ASV026) showing the proposed development area



Plate 2 -Entrance to Strokestown House, facing northeast



Plate 3 -Garden on northern side of Bawn Street, facing northeast

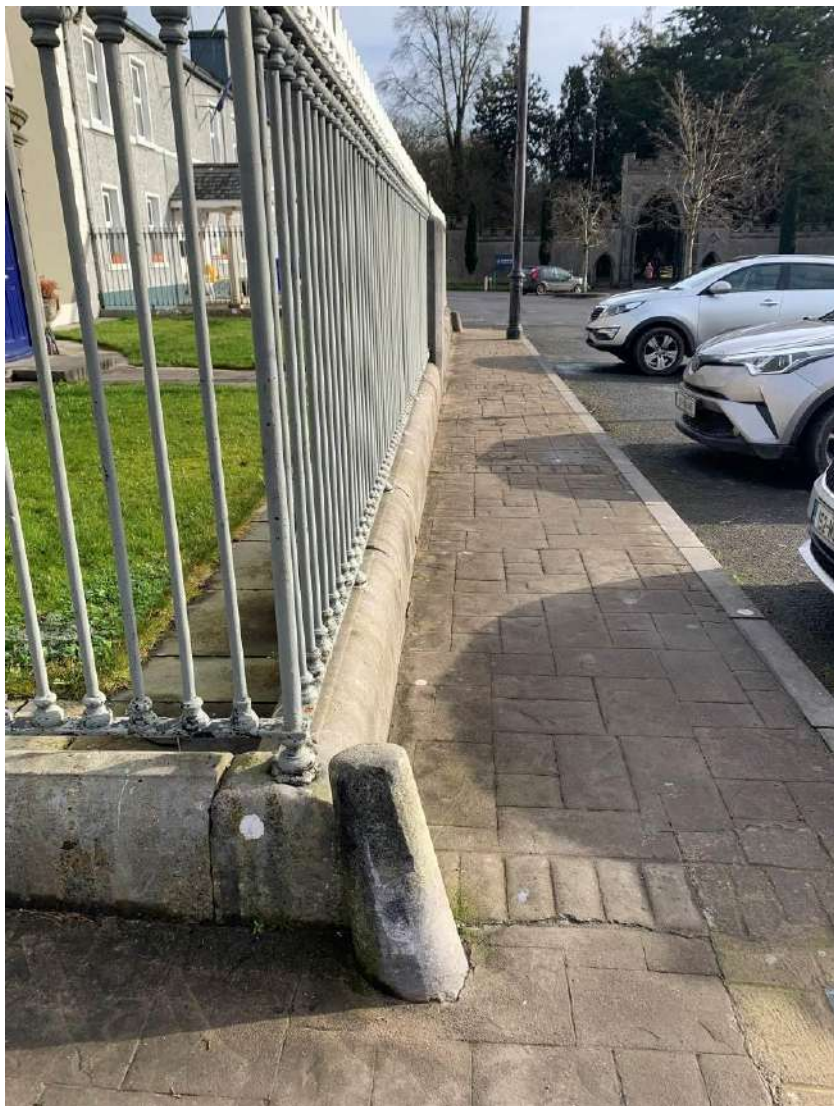


Plate 4 -Jostle stones, facing east



Plate 5 -Proposed development area, facing east



Plate 6 -Western extent of the proposed development area, facing northwest



Plate 7 – Church Street, facing west