

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

**AT PIRN MILL ROAD SLIGO**

**ON BEHALF OF**

**SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**



**Planning Number: Pre-planning**

**Author: Tamlyn McHugh**

**Date: November 2023**

[www.fadoarchaeology.com](http://www.fadoarchaeology.com)

**Tel: 0868706529**

**Email: [info@fadoarchaeology.com](mailto:info@fadoarchaeology.com)**

Circulation	Name	No. of copies
Client	Sligo County Council	PDF copy
Project Managers	TAKA	PDF copy
DHLGH		
NMI		
Planning	Sligo County Council – Planning Department	To be supplied by the client.
Other		
Comments:		

<b>Issued by</b>	Tamlyn McHugh BA MA MIAI
<b>Date</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2023

Please note that all recommendations in this report are subject to approval by the Planning and Heritage Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Museum of Ireland.

Please note that this report and accompanying recommendations are based on maps provided at the time of writing. Should changes be made, further assessment may be necessary.

Please note that no part of this report may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, or otherwise without prior permission from Fadó Archaeology.

#### Disclaimer

This report has been prepared by Tamlyn McHugh, with all reasonable skill, care and diligence within the terms of the Contract with the Client, incorporation of our General Terms and Conditions of Business and taking account of the resources devoted to us by agreement with the Client. We disclaim any responsibility to the Client and others in respect of any matters outside the scope of the above. This report is confidential to the Client, and we accept no responsibility of whatsoever nature to third parties to whom this report, or any part thereof, is made known. Any such party relies on the report at its own risk.

Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information contained in this report, complete correctness cannot be guaranteed. The author does not accept any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information on product or process disclosed in this report.

© Copyright Fadó Archaeology 2023

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>SCOPE OF WORKS.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Introduction .....	1
1.2	Purpose of the Project .....	1
1.3	Archaeological Assessment .....	2
1.4	Archaeological Monitoring .....	3
1.5	Legal Background.....	3
1.6	Methodology .....	3
1.7	Desk Study .....	3
<b>2</b>	<b>CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT.....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	Site Layout/Locational details .....	5
<b>3</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT.....</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1	Solid Geology and Soil Type.....	6
3.2	Landscape .....	6
<b>4</b>	<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL &amp; HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....</b>	<b>7</b>
4.1	Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age): .....	7
4.2	Neolithic (New Stone Age): .....	7
4.3	Bronze Age: .....	8
4.4	Iron Age: .....	8
4.5	Early Christian or Early Medieval: .....	9
4.6	Later Historic Period: .....	10
4.7	Sligo Town:.....	11
<b>5</b>	<b>DESKTOP DATA.....</b>	<b>12</b>
5.1	National Monuments.....	12
5.2	Previous Archaeological Work.....	12
5.3	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage .....	21
5.4	County Development Plan.....	21
5.5	Record of Monuments and Places.....	25
5.6	The National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files .....	29
5.7	Toponymy .....	29
5.8	Aerial Photography.....	29
5.9	Cartographic Evidence .....	30
5.9.1	<i>Early Maps of Sligo Town.....</i>	<i>30</i>
5.9.2	<i>Ordnance Survey 1838 edition (6" map) .....</i>	<i>34</i>
5.9.3	<i>Ordnance Survey c. 1890 edition (25" map).....</i>	<i>34</i>

5.9.4	Ordnance Survey c. 1940 edition (6" map)	35
<b>6</b>	<b>RESULTS OF THE SITE INSPECTION</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>RESULTS OF THE MONITORING</b>	<b>40</b>
7.1	Methodology	40
7.2	Results	40
<b>8</b>	<b>POTENTIAL IMPACTS</b>	<b>44</b>
8.1	Potential Direct Effects	44
8.2	Potential Direct Effects on Recorded Archaeological Monuments	45
8.2.1	Potential direct effects on unrecorded Archaeological Monuments	45
8.2.2	Potential direct effects Architectural Sites	45
8.2.3	'Do Nothing scenario'	45
8.2.4	'Worst Case' scenario'	46
8.3	Potential Visual Effects on Setting	46
8.3.1	Archaeology Sites	46
8.3.2	Architectural Sites	46
<b>9</b>	<b>STATEMENT OF EFFECT</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF EFFECTS</b>	<b>49</b>

## TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1:	Location of the proposed scheme.	1
Figure 2:	Plan of the Proposed Development.	2
Figure 3:	OIS public map of the Proposed Development Area.	5
Figure 4:	OSI Discovery map of Sligo with the PDA indicated (source: www.her	6
Figure 5:	RMP Map 014 Sligo. Proposed development area is indicated in proximity to the ZAN for SL014-065--- Historic Town (Source: www.archaeology.ie)	28
Figure 6:	Archaeological Survey of Ireland map showing the location of archaeological sites and monuments in proximity to the PDA.	29
Figure 7:	Aerial photograph of the Pirn Road area showing the Proposed Development Area (Source: www.archaeology.ie).	30
Figure 9:	Map of Sligo Town and Parks 1813-14 by James Williamson showing 'Rathedmond Quarter' (Source: Irish Historic Towns Atlas, no. 24 Sligo by Fíona Gallagher and Marie-Louise Legg 2012).	31

Figure 10: 1837 map (Source: Irish Historic Towns Atlas, no. 24 Sligo by Fíona Gallagher and Marie-Louise Legg 2012).....	31
Figure 11: 1837 St John’s Parish Map (Source: Irish Historic Towns Atlas, no. 24 Sligo by Fíona Gallagher and Marie-Louise Legg 2012).....	32
Figure 12: Map of parliamentary and municipal boundaries, 1837, by Thomas Larcom .....	32
Figure 13: 1861 Map of Sligo Harbour (Source: Irish Historic Towns Atlas, no. 24 Sligo by Fíona Gallagher and Marie-Louise Legg 2012).....	33
Figure 14: 1868-1878 Ordnance Survey Map (Source: Irish Historic Towns Atlas, no. 24 Sligo by Fíona Gallagher and Marie-Louise Legg 2012) .....	33
Figure 15: Ordnance Survey Map c. 1838 of the Proposed Development Area (Source: www.archaeology.ie) .....	34
Figure 16: Ordnance Survey Map c.1890 of the Proposed Development Area (Source: www.archaeology.ie) .....	35
Figure 17: Ordnance Survey Map c.1940 of the Proposed Development Area (Source: www.archaeology.ie) .....	35

#### TABLE OF PLATES

Plate 1: East facing view of the access gates to the PDA.....	37
Plate 2: NE facing view of the PDA.....	37
Plate 3: South facing view of the PDA.....	38
Plate 4: SW facing view of the PDA.....	38
Plate 5: North facing view of the PDA.....	39
Plate 6: North facing view of the PDA and the boundary with the neighbouring retail premises. ....	39
Plate 7: Soak pit .....	41
Plate 8: Trial Trench 1. ....	41
Plate 9: Trial Trench 2. ....	42
Plate 10: Trial Trench 3. ....	42
Plate 11: Trial Trench 4. ....	43
Plate 12: East facing view of Trial Trench 5 showing the brick wall. ....	43
Plate 13: Trial Trench 6. ....	44

#### ABBREVIATIONS

NMI National Museum of Ireland

NMS National Monuments Service  
DHLGH Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage  
VIA Visual Impact Assessment  
AIA Archaeological Impact Assessment  
SMR Sites and Monuments Record  
RMP Record of Monuments and Places  
RPS Record of Protected Structures  
NIAH National Inventory of Architectural Heritage  
PDA Proposed Development Area  
ZAN Zone of Archaeological Notification

## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

---

This report describes the results of a desktop archaeological report carried out by Fadó Archaeology at Pirn Mill Road Sligo town for Sligo County Council. The following archaeological assessment report documents the project, the receiving environment, the results of the site inspection and additional monitoring, as well as a review of available desktop sources.

Sligo County Council aims to provide social housing at Pirn Mill Road, the overall site is 0.1869 hectares. The proposed development at Pirn Mill Road is in the vicinity of RMP SL014-065---- Historic Town.

The site inspection and unlicensed monitoring of engineering trial trenches took place on the 2nd of November 2023. No finds or features of archaeological significance were noted during the site inspection of the site or during the monitoring of trial trenches. The proposed development will not have direct impact, either physical or visual, on any known archaeological site or monument in the vicinity of the proposed scheme.

Due to archaeological potential of location of the proposed development area in the vicinity of RMP SL014-065---- Historic Town it is recommended that the proposed works associated with the development that

involve subsurface excavation should be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring, the schedule of which is to be determined by a suitably qualified archaeologist in consultation with the National Monuments Service and the National Museum of Ireland.

Archaeological monitoring should be conducted by a suitably qualified archaeologist, under license to the Planning and Heritage Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and the National Museum of Ireland, with provision being made for full recording and excavation of any archaeological features or deposits which may be exposed.

**Please note that all recommendations in this report are subject to approval by the Planning and Heritage Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Museum of Ireland.**

# 1 SCOPE OF WORKS

## 1.1 Introduction

Fadó Archaeology were commissioned to carry out a desktop archaeological report and monitoring of engineering trial trenches at Pirn Mill Road, Sligo for Sligo County Council. The following report documents the project, the existing environment at the site, the results of the site inspection and monitoring and desktop assessment of available relevant sources.

## 1.2 Purpose of the Project

Sligo County Council aims to develop a social housing scheme at a vacant site on Pirn Mill Road in the centre of Sligo Town. The overall size of the proposed development area is 0.1869 hectares. The housing scheme will comprise a 4-storey block and 2-storey terraces with a shared public space.

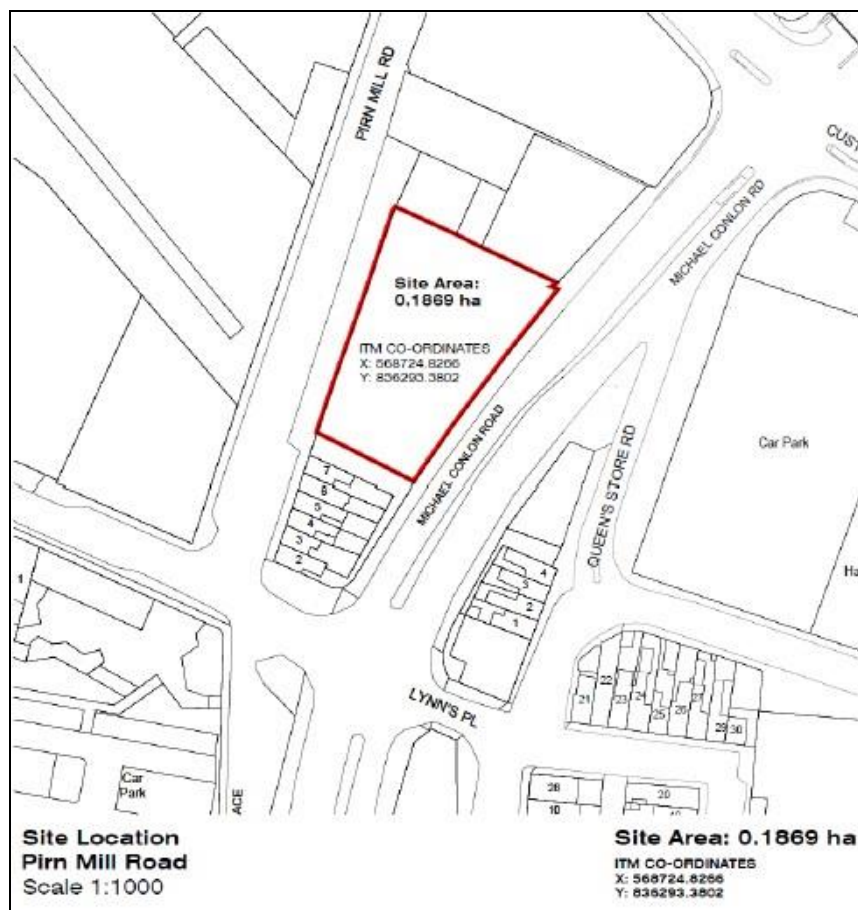


Figure 1: Location of the proposed scheme.



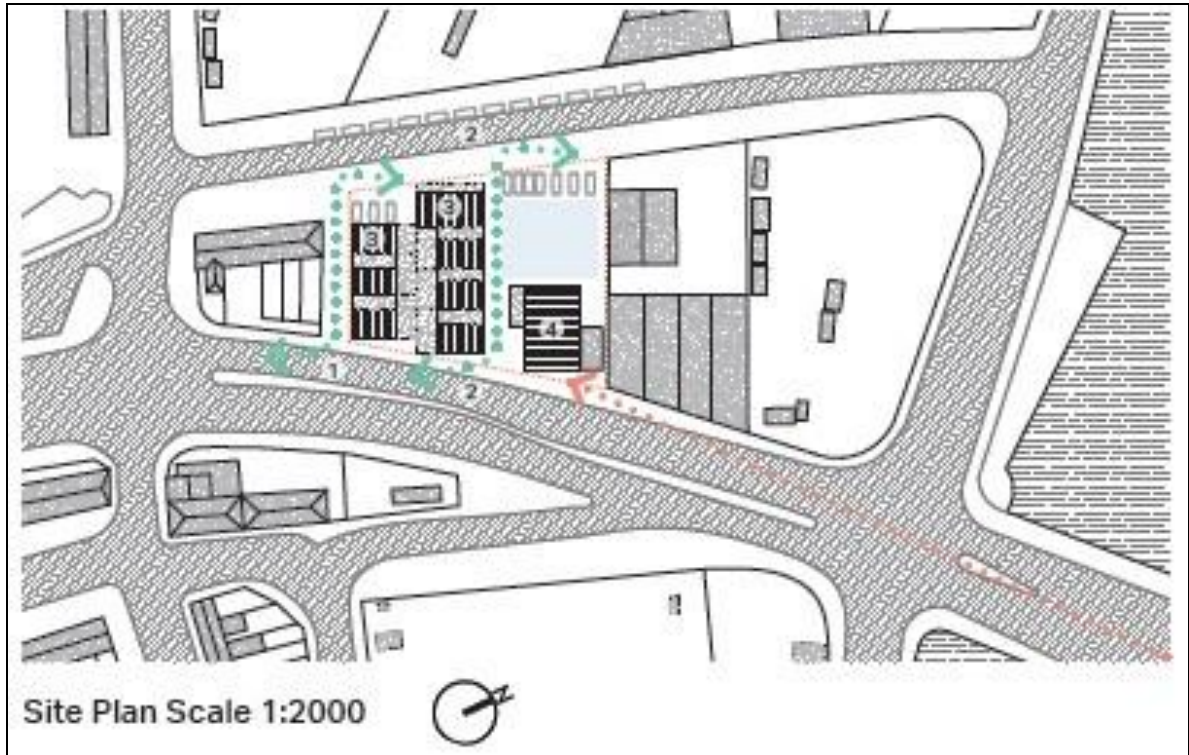


Figure 2: Plan of the Proposed Development.

### 1.3 Archaeological Assessment

In the present context archaeological assessment means investigations aimed at any of the following: (i) gaining a better understanding of a known or suspected archaeological site or monument with particular reference to considering the implications of proposed development for such a site or monument, (ii) locating previously unidentified site or monuments (or possible ones) prior to the commencement of development works with particular reference to considering the implications of proposed development for such sites or monuments, (iii) considering the potential that proposed development works or longer term effects of a development may have on elements of the archaeological heritage not identified prior to the commencement of development works.

Archaeological assessment may, as appropriate, include documentary research, fieldwalking, examination of upstanding or visible features or structures, examination of existing or new aerial photographs or satellite or other remote sensing imagery, geophysical survey, topographical assessment, general consideration of the archaeological potential of the area or areas affected by a development based on their environmental characteristics, or archaeological testing. In all cases an archaeological assessment should consider both direct and indirect effects of proposed development. It is always essential that the report on archaeological assessment contain an archaeological impact statement describing the possible direct or indirect effects of the proposed development on elements of the archaeological heritage.

## 1.4 Archaeological Monitoring

Archaeological Monitoring can be defined as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area or site on land or underwater, where there is possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

## 1.5 Legal Background

The National Monuments Acts 1930-2014, The Heritage Act 1995, The Architectural Heritage and Historic Properties Act 1999 and the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000 (as amended), are the main legal mechanisms by which the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage resource is protected today in Ireland.

## 1.6 Methodology

The assessment of the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage was based on a desktop study of published and unpublished documentary and cartographic sources, as well as a comprehensive site inspection of the proposed development works.

## 1.7 Desk Study

This desktop study comprised a paper study of all available archaeological, historical, and cartographic sources. These sources are described below:

### **National Monuments**

Under the National Monuments Acts (1930 to 2014) sites in '*The Ownership Or Guardianship Of The Minister Or A Local Authority Or National Monuments Which Are Subject To A Preservation Order*' are offered the highest level of protection. For any construction or excavation works to take place either on or in the vicinity of these sites' permission must first be obtained from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in the form of a Ministerial Consent.

### **Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023**

The Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023 was consulted and the Draft Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030. It contained the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) for County Sligo.

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

The RMP of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, was established under the 1994 Amendment to the National Monuments Acts (1930-2014). It is based on

the pre-existing Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and information from completed county archaeological inventories. As such, it records known upstanding archaeological monuments, their original location (in cases of destroyed monuments) and the position of possible sites identified as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs. The RMP information is compiled from the files of the Archaeological Survey, which combines cartographic sources, published and publicly available documentary sources, including periodicals, the records of the NMI, Geological Survey of Ireland 1:30,000 vertical aerial photographs and inspections of sites in the field. The information is read in conjunction with constraint maps, published at reduced six-inch scale, on which recorded sites are clearly marked. The RMP is constantly updated and is the first stage in the preparation of a national census of archaeological sites, with inventories also published at an interim stage. The RMP sheet relevant to the project is sheet 014 of the O.S six-inch series for Sligo (which is based on the OS revision of 1913-14).

#### **Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland**

The discovery of artefacts can be an important indicator of past levels of activity in an area and therefore a useful guide to the archaeological potential of a site. The Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) archive identify recorded stray finds that have been donated to the state in accordance with National Monuments legislation between 1928 and 1995. In most cases, files include details on the location of and nature of the find, or where applicable, reports of excavations undertaken by NMI archaeologists in the early twentieth century.

#### **Aerial Photographs**

Aerial photographs are an invaluable resource in archaeology for the recognition of new sites and contributing to the understanding of known sites. Features can be recognised from the air as earthworks in relief or as vegetation marks where a buried feature such as a wall or ditch affects the growth of the surrounding flora. The Geological Survey of Ireland Aerial Photograph Collection, based in Dublin, holds a comprehensive archive of high-level vertical photographs available for consultation by the public and researchers but may not be copied.

#### **Sligo County Library**

The Local Studies section of Sligo County Library is housed in Sligo County Library in Sligo. A number of local histories and general historical/archaeological texts were consulted (see bibliography for details).

#### **Irish Excavations Database**

'Excavations' is an annual bulletin, now funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, which contains summary accounts of all excavations carried out in Ireland – North and South. The bulletins can now be accessed on the Internet at [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie). Compiled from the published excavation bulletins, the database contains summary accounts of all excavations carried out from 1970 to 2023. Both the

bulletins and database were consulted to establish whether excavations have been previously carried out in the vicinity of the proposed development.

**The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage**

The NIAH is a section within the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The work of the NIAH involves identifying and recording the architectural heritage of Ireland, from 1700 to the present day, in a systematic and consistent manner.

**Cartographic Sources**

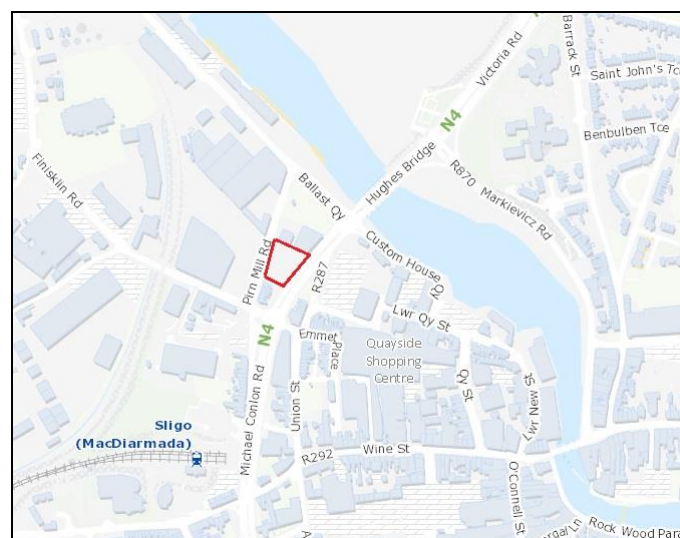
Cartographic sources consulted include the first edition map of the Ordnance Survey (O.S) six-inch series published in 1838 and the twenty-five-inch c. 1900 O.S map were also consulted. All maps were sourced online at [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie).

## 2 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT

### 2.1 Site Layout/Locational details

The development is in a disused yard at Pirn Mill Road. The site is within Sligo town and within the townland of Rathedmond, centred on Pirn Mill Road in Sligo town. Rathedmond townland is in the barony of *Cairbre/Carbury* and the civil parish of *Teampall Eoin/Saint John's*.

Study area	OS Sheet number	Central ITM	Townland
Sligo	014	568717/836295	Rathedmond



**Figure 3: OIS public map of the Proposed Development Area.**



Figure 4: OSI Discovery map of Sligo with the PDA indicated (source: www.her

### 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

#### 3.1 Solid Geology and Soil Type

The geology of the Sligo region consists of carboniferous limestone, boulder clay and grey, brown podzolics. The principal soil in the area is made up of degraded grey, brown podzolics (50%), associated soils consist of peat (15%), brown earth (15%), gleys (10%) and podzols (10%). The parent material in the vicinity of the subject site is predominantly a predominantly limestone glacial till. The soil varies from well drained to hill or low-level peat.

#### 3.2 Landscape

The landscape in this part of Sligo is situated at Sligo Bay at the quays of Sligo town and is characterised by flat to undulating coastal lowlands. The proposed development area is centred on Pirn Mill Road, where it will be sited within existing yard bounded by predominantly commercial properties on all sides with a terrace of residential properties directly to the south. To the east is the N4 Sligo Inner Relief Road.



## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

---

Research was undertaken in two phases. It comprised of a paper study of all available archaeological, historical, and cartographic sources and a site walkover. The following is based on a document search and paper study.

### 4.1 Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age):

The first people who came to Ireland – mainly to coastal areas as the interior was heavily forested – arrived during the Middle Stone Age, eleven thousand years ago. They were nomadic hunter gatherers. They made weapons and tools from stone such as flint or chert. Some artefacts are distinctive of this period, such as microliths from the early part of the Mesolithic to the larger Bann Flakes in the later Mesolithic. The Mesolithic ranged from c.7000-4000BC. Artefacts of hunter/gatherers are sometimes found in middens, rubbish pits around hearths where people would have rested and cooked over large open fires. Once cliffs erode, midden remains become exposed as blackened areas containing charred stones, bones, and shells.

Antiquarians of the 19th and early 20th centuries believed a stone flake found in Co. Sligo was evidence of palaeolithic settlement in the county. However, this item is now believed to be natural in origin and the earliest artefacts are in fact worked chert from the excavations at Lough Gara, which date to the Mesolithic. Some of the dates received from the archaeological excavations at Carrowmore have led to speculation over a transitional Mesolithic/Neolithic 'culture' involving semi-permanent dwellings and seasonal harvesting of wild food.

### 4.2 Neolithic (New Stone Age):

This period saw the first farming communities in Ireland. Weapons and tools were made from stone such as flint or chert. The Neolithic ranged from c.4000-2400BC. Sligo is well represented by megalithic monuments of the Neolithic, having examples of all four types, which accounts for 15% of the national total. Carrowmore and Carrowkeel are two of the most important passage tomb cemeteries in Ireland with the former yielding the earliest C14 dates. These Sligo cemeteries account for 39% of the national total.

There are also many court tombs in Sligo including a typical example of a full court tomb at Creevykeel near Cliffoney and a central court tomb at Deerpark. There are 38 wedge tombs in County Sligo including examples at Cabaragh on the southern slopes of the Ox Mountains and at Culdaly near Aclare in the south of the county. Portal tombs in the county include the Labby rock at Carrickglass, which is topped by a 70-tonne capstone and a collapsed example at Clogher. Excavations at Waste Gardens in Sligo town uncovered Neolithic chert. Recent archaeological work

carried out at Caltragh uncovered a 'prehistoric' field system and Neolithic settlement site. There have also been Neolithic field systems discovered on Benbulbin.

### 4.3 Bronze Age:

The period when metal working was first introduced to Ireland. People began to use bronze to make weapons and tools. Gold working also appeared during this time, with objects such as gold torcs being produced. The Bronze Age ranged from c.2400-500BC. Megalithic tomb building continued into the Bronze Age when metal began to be worked for tools alongside the stone tools. The design of the tombs changed to more being of the wedge tomb type and cist burials. Beaker pottery and funerary remains were found in the Moyturra wedge tomb at the end of the 19th Century. There have also been over 100 barrow or mound burials found in Sligo. Archaeological remains from this period include stone alignments, stone circles and *fulachta fiadh* (early cooking sites).

The most common field monuments of the Bronze Age however are *fulacht fiadh*. These are mounds of burnt stone usually associated with troughs (often wood lined) and ancillary pits or 'pot boilers'. While the usual explanation of their use involves the cooking of meat this is by no means conclusive. Other theories have included ritual bathing, felt making and brewing. It may be more helpful to view these monuments in terms of a then current technology for the heating of water rather than focussing on the search for an exclusive employment of that water. Regional and cultural differences may have occurred. These could certainly be reflected in the variety of troughs found. Several of these monuments have been excavated in County Sligo at Carrowgobbadaw and Caltragh.

### 4.4 Iron Age:

The Iron Age ranged in date from c.400BC-400AD. It is the period in which iron is first produced and used to make tools and weapons. This is thought to have coincided with the arrival of Celtic speaking peoples and the introduction of the ancestor of Irish. Towards the end of this period, the Roman Empire was at its height in Britain, but it is not thought that the Roman Empire extended into Ireland to any large degree. Remains from this period, which lasted until the Early Christian period began about 325AD (with the arrival of St. Patrick into Ireland, as a slave) include crannógs (Lake dwellings), promontory forts, ringforts and souterrains of which there are numerous examples across the county. The Iron Age was a time of tribal warfare with kingships, each fighting neighbouring kings, vying for control of territories, and taking slaves. Territories were marked by tall stone markers, Ogham stones, using the first written down words using the Ogham alphabet. The Iron Age is the time in which the tales of the Ulster Cycle and sagas took place.

In the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age distinctive settlement sites known as Hillforts arose. These are large defensive enclosures situated on elevated or hilltop locations. There are several examples in Sligo including a 700m x 320m site on Knocknashee near Lavagh. The defensive element of this site is composed of two bank and ditch enclosures incorporating earthen and stone ramparts. The enclosed area covers a total of 53 acres. Promontory forts situated on cliff edges are a monument associated with the Iron Age and an example of these can be found at Knocklane in the north of the county. This is situated on a narrow peninsula defended on its eastern side by a double bank and ditch linked by a causeway and a third bank and ditch further on. There is a cliff edge fort at Carrowhubcock North near Enniscrone which consists of three outer banks and an inner ditch with a maximum diameter of 70m.

Cashels and Rathes are a feature of the Early Historic or Early Christian period in Ireland. These are circular enclosures consisting usually of an earthen bank and ditch in the case of Rathes or stone walling in Cashels. There is a gap in the enclosure for access and egress and there is often a causeway to facilitate this. These sites are often associated with souterrains, stone lined underground passages which probably acted as storage areas and, when the need arose, places of refuge. Examples in the county include Rathmullagh ringfort south of Enniscrone which is a 66m bank and ditch enclosure containing a multi chambered souterrain and Clogher cashel near Monasteraden which has a 2m surviving stone wall 26m in diameter enclosing three souterrains. Cashelore, is referred to in the Annals of the Four Masters wherein, "O'Rourke invaded County Sligo but was encountered at Cashelore by the cavalry of the O'Healys. The latter were defeated, and their territory pillaged."

#### 4.5 Early Christian or Early Medieval:

Christianity came to Ireland around the start of the 5th century AD. It brought many changes including the introduction of writing and recording events. The tribal 'tuatha' and the new religious settlements existed side by side. Sometimes it suited the chieftains to become part of the early Churches, other times they remained as separate entities. From the middle of the 6th century hundreds of small monastic settlements were established around the county.

Early Christian monuments in Co. Sligo include the monastic settlement on Inishmurray Island, which consists of a cashel enclosing two churches, a beehive cell, and a later medieval building. There is another church outside the main enclosure and a sweathouse and graveyard. There are also over 50 engraved stone slabs on the island. It is recorded that the Vikings raided the island in the year 807. Other ecclesiastical sites include: Killaspugbrone in Strandhill reputed to have been founded in the 5th Century by Bishop Bronus, a disciple of St. Patrick; Carrowntemple south of



Gurteen; Kiltura in the same area; St. Fechin's church northwest of Ballisodare and Drumcliffe round tower and high cross. There are also numerous holy wells including Tober Na nAlt holy well on the shore of Lough Gill.

#### 4.6 Later Historic Period:

The Medieval period includes the arrival of the Anglo Normans in the 12th century. The Late Medieval Period may be seen as running up to the 17th century. From 1169 AD when one of the warring kings (Dermot MacMurrough) in the east of Ireland appealed to the King of England for help in his fight with a neighbouring king, the response of which was the arrival of the Anglo-Norman colonisation of Ireland. Norman control meant the eclipse of many Gaelic lords and chieftains, chiefly the O'Connor's of Connacht. Following the collapse of the lordship in the 1330s, all these families became estranged from the Anglo-Irish administration based in Dublin and assimilated with the Gaelic-Irish, adopting their language, religion, dress, laws, customs, and culture and marrying into Irish families. They "became more Irish than the Irish themselves".

The Anglo Normans encouraged and established many religious orders from continental Europe to settle in Ireland. Mendicant orders—Augustinians, Carmelites, Dominicans, and Franciscans began new settlements across Ireland and built large churches, many under the patronage of prominent Gaelic families. During the 15th and 16th centuries, despite regular conflicts between them as England chopped and changed between religious beliefs, the Irish usually regarded the King of England as their King. When Queen Elizabeth 1 came to the throne in the mid-16th century, the English people, as was customary at that time, followed the religious practices of the reigning Monarch and became Protestant. Many Irish people had close relationships with the English monarchy and the English kings and queens were welcome visitors to Irish shores. The Irish however, generally held onto their Catholic religious practices and beliefs. The early plantations of settlers in Ireland began during the reign of Queen Mary in the mid-16th century and continued throughout the long reign of Queen Elizabeth I until 1603. In the September 1588 the galleons of the Spanish Armada were wrecked by storms along the west coast of Ireland at Streedagh, Co. Sligo. Some of the hapless Spaniards came ashore, only to be robbed and imprisoned, and in many cases slaughtered. Almost all the religious foundations set up by the Anglo Normans were suppressed in the wake of the Reformation in the 16th century.

Protestant settlers from Scotland, England, and elsewhere in Ireland, settled in the County in the early 17th century. Many would be killed or forced to flee because of the 1641 Rebellion, during which several massacres were committed by the Catholic Gaelic Irish. A third of the overall

population was reported to have perished due to warfare, famine, and plague between 1641 and 1653, with several areas remaining disturbed and frequented by Reparees into the 1670s.

#### 4.7 Sligo Town:

The town of Sligo has its beginnings in the Anglo/Norman occupation of Ireland when Maurice Fitzgerald built the castle of Sligo in 1239 and the Dominican Abbey was founded in 1252. The area also figures prominently in the golden age of monastic Ireland some of the great source books of Irish history and genealogy were compiled in the county of Sligo including the Book of Ballymote. Poets were established as the aristocrats of early Irish society and many, including the O'Daly's, the O'Rourke's and the O'Higgins's originated in the Sligo area. The submission of the Irish chieftains to the English throne in 1500 marked the beginning of a downward slide in the fortunes of Sligo. Insurrection and ruin marked the countryside. Sligo town - including the Dominican Abbey - was burned in 1642 by Sir Frederick Hamilton and 300 people were killed by rampaging soldiers. In the Cromwellian destruction woman and children were the main targets of genocide. Irish Catholics were forbidden to own land, the dispossessed were shipped to the Caribbean as slaves to the West Indian sugar plantations, and 63,000 acres of Sligo land were handed over to Cromwellian soldiers.

Sligo town was extensively fortified during the Jacobite war and the Green Fort became the strongest point of the town's defences. Both town and fort changed hands several times in this period. In 1689 the Jacobite Commander Patrick Sarsfield constructed additional defensive works at the Green Fort. After the Jacobite defeat at the Battle of the Boyne in July 1690, Sir Teige O'Regan took command of Sligo and brought guns up from the Stone Fort to the higher situation of the Green Fort which he considered of key importance to the defence of the town. O'Regan held out from the Williamites until September 1691 with a garrison of 600 men and sixteen guns. The original earthworks and bastions of the fort survive well on the site, however the location of the extra defences constructed in 1689 are unknown. The Green Fort stands in the townland of Rathquarter and has also been connected with the name Rath Na Vritoge. There are no obvious defended settlements in the immediate area, and it has been suggested that the star shaped fort may have replaced an earlier construction. None of the secular buildings of the medieval and post medieval appear to survive today, with the only visible remnant of the towns urban defences being the 17th century Green Fort.

The 1663 'Survey of Houses' gives the first indication of urban growth on the northern bank of Garavogue River and the divisions of the town's quarters. The returns for Abbey Quarter are not as complete as the other areas but it does indicate that there was a tan-yard as well as two forges on the eastern side of O'Connell Street. During the seventeenth century the main streets of the towns

are O'Connell Street, Grattan Street and Castle Street, according to the survey they comprised eighty houses and cabins. During the final decades of the eighteenth century there was a period of urban growth with the population expanding and many houses being built. There was rapid expansion in the nineteenth century, despite the 1832 cholera epidemic Sligo was the main market town and urban centre in the part of Northwest Ireland.

## 5 DESKTOP DATA

---

### 5.1 National Monuments

There are no sites or monuments categorised as a National Monument listed in state care in the vicinity of the subject site.

### 5.2 Previous Archaeological Work

A search of the database [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie) produced the following results in the vicinity of the subject area:

2001:1151 - CARROWROE/CALTRAGH/MAGHERABOY/KNAPPAGH BEG/RATHEDMOND, Sligo

County: Sligo Site name: CARROWROE/CALTRAGH/MAGHERABOY/KNAPPAGH BEG/RATHEDMOND

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 14:65 Licence number: 01E0140

Author: Sebastien Joubert, on behalf of Mary Henry Archaeological Services Ltd.

Site type: Excavation - miscellaneous

Period/Dating: Multi-period

ITM: E 568736m, N 833433m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 54.248791, -8.479711

Monitoring of engineering pre-construction testing took place along the proposed Sligo Inner Relief Road, between 24 February and 2 March 2001. Testing commenced at Carrowroe townland, to the south of the town of Sligo, and headed north towards and through the town. It was carried out along the entire length of the proposed Sligo Inner Relief Road and traversed the townlands of Carrowroe, Caltragh, Magheraboy, Knappagh Beg and Rathedmond. Within the town of Sligo, Wolfe Tone Street, John's Street, Lord Edward Street, Lynn's Place, Ballast Quay and Summerhill were also affected.

On 14 February 2001 it came to my attention that pre-development testing had started on 12 February 2001, without the presence of an archaeologist. Thirty-one trial-holes had been dug from Carrowroe townland to the townland of Caltragh, where archaeological excavations were ongoing. Further trial-holes (approximately 30 in number) were planned along the proposed route, dug approximately every 100m, but distance between them varied depending on the topography, the stratigraphy and the terrain. They averaged 3m in length by 0.8m in width. The depth depended on the level of bedrock. The holes were dug with the help of a JCB.

No archaeological deposits were uncovered in the trial-holes monitored, but it appeared that two small trial-holes were dug within a hengiform monument at Tonafortes without the presence of an archaeologist. The stratigraphy exposed along the route was consistent. The sod and topsoil overlay the natural boulder clay. The remains of modern agricultural furrows were also identified. The location of the trial-holes excavated within the hengiform monument was reported to the relevant bodies.

2009:731 - QUAY STREET LOWER, RATHEDMOND, SLIGO, Sligo

County: Sligo Site name: QUAY STREET LOWER, RATHEDMOND, SLIGO

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SL014–065 Licence number: 09E0518

Author: Mary Henry, Mary Henry Archaeological Services Ltd, 17 Staunton Row, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.

Site type: No archaeological significance

Period/Dating: —

ITM: E 568864m, N 836236m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 54.273987, -8.478033

Testing was undertaken in advance of the construction of four-storey licenced premises on a small site on Lower Quay, Sligo town. Three test-trenches were opened on the imprint of the new structure, which occupies the entire site. A thin overburden layer extended over the entire site, which directly overlaid a naturally deposited darkyellowish/brown, compact, high silicate clay. No archaeological features/remains were uncovered in the course of testing works.

2016:193 - Finisklin Road, Rathedmond, Sligo

County: Sligo Site name: Finisklin Road, Rathedmond

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 16E0220

Author: Tamlyn McHugh

Site type: Urban

Period/Dating: —

ITM: E 0m, N 0m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 54.275301, -8.484536

Fadó Archaeology were commissioned to carry out a programme of archaeological monitoring at Finisklin Road, Co. Sligo. Monitoring of the upgrading of the water mains at Sligo town was undertaken from April to June 2016. The pipeline was excavated in existing road adjacent to the pedestrian pavement along the southern side of Finisklin Road. Finisklin Road is located in an industrial area of Sligo City, bounded by the Sligo quays located south of the pipeline location. The eastern end of the road is characterised by large warehouses and yards. Also located along Finisklin Road is the Ursuline Convent School and its associated buildings.

Overall the pipeline comprised approximately 650m of open trench excavation. The stratigraphy on Finisklin Road exposed road surface material overlying redeposited road fill. At the western end of the trench, at the junction between Finisklin Road and Ballast Quay, natural ground was uncovered. No stone culverts were located in trench and the vast majority of the ground had been previously disturbed by earlier pipe-laying works for services. An earlier gas pipe noted on an 1861 map of Sligo Town was present at the eastern end of the trench, at the junction between Pirn Mill Road and Finisklin Road. Other than this pipe the only feature of note was portions of original stone kerbing that occurred adjacent to the boundary and entrance to the Ursuline Convent School. No material of an archaeological nature was found during monitoring on Finisklin Road.

2018:312 - Rathbragahan, Ballytivnan, Farranacardy, Rathquarter, Rathedmond, Knappagh Beg, Magheraboy, Abbeyquarter North, Abbeyquarter South, Caltragh, Knocknaganny, Commons, Cornageeha, Cleaveragh Demesne and Tonaphubble. Sligo Watermain Rehabilitation and Pearse Road Sewer Network, Sligo

County: Sligo

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SL014-064 Licence number: 17E0142 and 17R0047

Author: Kate Taylor, TVAS (Ireland) Ltd

Site type: Late post-medieval urban

ITM: E 569300m, N 835800m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 54.270087, -8.471303

Monitoring was conducted during 2017 and 2018 within the historic core of Sligo town as part of the Sligo Watermain Rehabilitation and Pearse Road Sewer Network project, specifically in the following areas: John Street, Smith's Row, JFK Parade, Thomas Street, Castle Street, Teeling Street, Pearse Road, New Bridge, Bridge Street, Stephen Street, Holborn Street, Holborn Hill, Hyde Bridge, Lower Knox Street, Wine Street, Union Street, Lower Quay Street, Quay Street, Old Market Street, Connolly Street and Mail Coach Road. Additionally, intermittent monitoring or spot checks of works were carried out at various locations outside the Historic Core of Sligo town, specifically at Tonaphubble Lane, Cleveragh and Cemetery Road.

The bulk of the monitored works were located in the townlands of Rathquarter, Knappagh Beg, Abbeyquarter North, Abbeyquarter South, Cleaveragh Demesne and Tonaphubble. Culverts were exposed on Bridge Street, Stephen Street, Quay Street, John Street, Smith's Row, Old Market Street, Connolly Street, Thomas Street and Teeling Street. A wall was exposed at the junction of Thomas Street and JFK Parade and interpreted as either part of an old building or a wall linking to the original line of the New Bridge extending up Thomas Street. A buried eighth arch of the New Bridge was exposed at the corner of Rockwood Parade and the New Bridge. A layer of shells was encountered along Castle Street, John Street, Old Market Street, Thomas Street and Teeling Street, containing oyster and cockle shells as well as red brick, clay tobacco pipe stems and occasional glass fragments. A cobbled layer uncovered west of the rear entrance to the Quayside Shopping Centre was interpreted as part of an old street or road surface, dating to the late 18th/early 19th century. Pits near Lower Quay Street contained evidence of 18th/19th-century deposits. Walling, possibly part of another culvert or a section of an older bridge, was exposed east of Hyde Bridge. Cobbles and a portion of culvert wall were exposed on Lower Knox Street

2020:234 - Rathedmond & Finisklin, Sligo

County: Sligo Site name: Rathedmond & Finisklin

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 20E0178

Author: Tamlyn McHugh

Site type: Pit features

Period/Dating: —

ITM: E 568180m, N 836330m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 54.274781, -8.488552

Testing took place from 18-20 May 2020. The conditions were good during the works. A total of fifteen test trenches were excavated across the development area in the front garden of the former convent (Area 1), in the large sloping field to the south (Area 2) and along the southern boundary to the convent (Area 3). The total area excavated comprised 1613.72m of trench. All trenches were excavated to the top of archaeological material or the boulder clay.

Each test trench was mechanically excavated using a graded bucket 1.5m wide and were excavated parallel with one another where possible, and at 20m intervals across the development area to the south, along the southern boundary and in the front garden of the former convent. The total area excavated comprised 1613.72m of trench.

Depths of soil cover varied across the site with an average depth of 0.4m. Several features of possible archaeological significance were noted in Trenches 4, 9 and 10.

Trench 4 was located along the western boundary of the south to north sloping Area 2, east of a former farm track which provided access to the fields. The track was left unexcavated and the trench was located east along a post and wire fence bounding the farm track. Test Trench 4 was excavated in two parts, A & B. A 4m break was left unexcavated to avoid digging below the overhead cables that crossed Area 2 running east to west.

Trench 4 (A) measured 55.67m, the depth ranged from 0.3-0.4m. At 29.2m from the southern end a semi-circular pit (F1) was uncovered. The feature was truncated by a plough furrow. Furrows were encountered in Test Trenches 4-10 traversing the entire field of Area 2 running south-west to north-east; potatoes were previously sown in the field and provided the convent with crop. The furrows ranged between 0.4-0.5m wide and were often accompanied by a second shallow furrow 0.1m wide and located 0.25m from the larger furrow.

An area measuring 6.5m x 5.5m x 8.4m wide was mechanically stripped of topsoil around F1 to observe if any other features were in the vicinity. A further semi-circular pit (F2) was uncovered 2.3m from F1. This feature was also truncated by a furrow, orientated similarly to the furrow that truncated F1. F1 measured 0.26m east-west by 0.4m. The fill consisted of a mid-grey silt with occasional charcoal and heat-affected stone. A piece of iron slag with small stone adhered to its

surface was found when the feature was half sectioned. F2 measured 0.25m east-west by 0.6m. The fill comprised a grey silt with occasional charcoal inclusions.

Trench 9 was excavated 20m east of Trench 8. Trench 9 is divided into A & B, with a 5.3m break left to avoid excavating below the overhead cables. Trench 9 (A) measured 58m and was orientated south to north in a gently sloping area. The trench measured a maximum depth of 0.3m, the stratigraphy consisted of dark brown clayey silt over yellowish grey boulder clay. Plough furrows cross Trench 9 A & B. Trench 9 (B) measured 25m and stopped at the tree-lined field boundary to Area 3. At 49m from the beginning of Trench 9 (A) a large oblong-shaped feature (F3) was identified. The feature measured 3.56m south-east/north-west by 1.5m and was 0.3m below the sod layer. A slot trench was excavated through the feature. The fill was 0.3m deep and comprised a moderately compacted brownish-grey clayey silt fill devoid of charcoal or any artefacts. A small amount of charcoal was visible along the eastern and southern edge of the feature, but no charcoal was present in the fill. An area 6.3m x 5m wide was mechanically opened to observe if any other features were present, other than the same furrows previously experienced crossing Area 2.

Trench 10 was excavated 20m east of Trench 9 and started at the back wall of Rathedmond Estate where there was no vegetation cover. Trench 10 is divided into A & B, with a 6.6m break left to avoid excavating below the overhead cables. Trench 10 (A) measured 56.3m and was orientated south to north in a gently sloping area. The trench measured a maximum depth of 0.3m, the stratigraphy consisted of dark brown clayey silt over yellowish-grey boulder clay. The plough furrows cross Trench 10 A & B. Trench 10 (B) measured 21m and stopped at the tree-lined field boundary to Area 3. A possible archaeological feature (F4) was encountered 6m from the southern end of Trench 10 (A). Feature 4 consisted of a linear pit with a moderately compacted charcoal-enriched silt fill and a dark red heat-affected edge on all sites. The feature measured 0.45m north-south by 2.1m. F4 is truncated by a plough furrow running north to south. An area 6.1m x 8.2m was mechanically opened to observe any other possible archaeological features in the immediate vicinity but other than a modern water pipe, nothing was found.

Archaeological material was identified at the site during testing, it was recommended that these possible archaeological features be fully excavated prior to any development taking place. The full excavation of these features was undertaken by the author under an extension to licence 20E0178.

2020:235 - Rathedmond & Finisklin, Sligo

County: Sligo Site name: Rathedmond & Finisklin

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 20E0178 (Extension)



Author: Tamlyn McHugh

Site type: Pits and charcoal production kiln/clamp

Period/Dating: —

ITM: E 568180m, N 836330m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 54.274781, -8.488552

Archaeological material was identified at a proposed development site at the former Ursuline Convent in Sligo during archaeological testing conducted on dates between May 18th and 20th 2020 under licence number 20E0178. It was recommended that the archaeological features identified during testing be fully excavated prior to any development taking place. The features were subsequently fully excavated and recorded on June 25th and 26th following a request to the National Monuments Service for an extension to the licence.

The proposed development is 4.5 hectares in size as such it was required that pre-development archaeological testing take place. A total of fifteen test trenches were excavated across the development area in the front garden of the former convent, in the large sloping field to the south and along the southern boundary to the convent. The total area excavated comprised 1613.72m of trench. All trenches were excavated to the top of archaeological material or the boulder clay. During the programme of archaeological testing several features of possible archaeological significance was noted within the development area – in Trench 4, Trench 9, and Trench 10.

Full excavation of the archaeological features which were exposed during the testing (Phase 1) took place on June 25th and 26th 2020. The four features (F1-4) excavated showed evidence of charcoal production and metal working at the site. Feature 1 and 2 comprised two small bowl-shaped pits with charcoal inclusions – this were interpreted as possible bowl furnaces, however the lack of in situ burning may refute this interpretation. Both these features were truncated by modern furrows which may have obliterated further evidence to support this interpretation. F3 also appeared to have a similar function relating to charcoal production and may have been a charcoal production kiln/clamp – again the lack of in situ burning here may suggest that there was another function to the pit that is not clear. F4 comprised a sub rectangular pit with a charcoal enriched soil and extensive in situ burning evident from the heat effected surrounding substrate. F4 may have functioned, along with the other features, as a charcoal production kiln/clamp.

2022:353 - Rathedmond and Finisklin, Sligo

County: Sligo Site name: Rathedmond and Finisklin

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 20E0178 Ext

Author: Tamlyn McHugh

Site type: Charcoal-filled pit

Period/Dating: —

ITM: E 568180m, N 836330m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 54.274781, -8.488552

Archaeological material was identified at a development site adjacent to the former Ursuline Convent, Sligo. Archaeological testing (Phase 1) was conducted between May 18 and 20 2020 under licence 20E0178. It was recommended that the archaeological features identified during testing be fully excavated prior to any development taking place. The features were fully excavated (Phase 2) on June 25 and 26 2020 following a request for an extension to licence 20E0178.

The four features (F1-4) excavated showed evidence of charcoal production and metal working at the site. Feature 1 and 2 comprised two small bowl-shaped pits with charcoal inclusions – these were interpreted as possible bowl furnaces, however the lack of in-situ burning may refute this interpretation. Both these features were truncated by modern furrows which may have obliterated further evidence to support this interpretation. F3 also appeared to have a similar function relating to charcoal production and may have been a charcoal-production kiln/clamp – again the lack of in situ burning here may suggest that there was another function to the pit that is not clear. F4 comprised a sub rectangular pit with a charcoal-enriched soil and extensive in-situ burning evident from the heat -affected surrounding substrate. F4 may have functioned, along with the other features, as a charcoal-production kiln/clamp. A charcoal sample was obtained through floatation and sieving of a soil sample retrieved from C20, the charcoal-enriched fill of F4. The sample was submitted under NMI licence to alter & export to Queen's University Belfast Chronolab for radiocarbon dating. Prior to submitting the sample, the wood species was identified as alder by archaeological wood specialist Ellen O'Carroll. The Radiocarbon Age BP 1307 +/- 23 and the calibrated date obtained was cal AD 660- 706 726-773 (95.4 (2 sigma)) with the median probability of cal AD 721.

Archaeological monitoring (Phase 3) was undertaken of all groundworks within the vicinity of the previously excavated features and in areas of the site that were not accessible during test trenching. Monitoring took place over the course of six days between October 2021 and March 2022. The topsoil was mechanically stripped from the site using a 13-tonne machine equipped with a 1.5m graded bucket. No extensive features of archaeological significance were noted during

topsoil stripping. An oblong pit (F5) was observed and was summarily excavated and comprised a pit-like feature, 2m (L), 0.5m (W) & 0.25m (D). No artefacts or ecofacts were identified in this feature which may be a tree bole or similar natural feature; it was irregular, undefined and did not appear to be archaeological. Several unworked flints were found during monitoring of topsoil stripping. Worked lithics in the form of a flint scraper, a retouched flint flake and a chert scraper were found as stray finds in the topsoil.

2022:369 - Knappagh Beg and Rathedmond, Sligo, Sligo

County: Sligo Site name: Knappagh Beg and Rathedmond, Sligo

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SL014-065 Licence number: 19E0109 Ext.

Author: Tamlyn McHugh, Fadó Archaeology

Site type: No archaeology found

Period/Dating: —

ITM: E 569033m, N 836040m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 54.272228, -8.475426

A programme of licensed archaeological monitoring was carried out at Knappagh Beg and Rathedmond, Sligo, Co. Sligo. The development works entailed the removal of existing footpaths and central carriageway surface and installation of new paving surfaces at O'Connell Street, Lower Knox Street, Wine Street and Fish Quay Street in Sligo.

There are several recorded archaeological monuments and architectural heritage buildings in the direct vicinity of the works which are within the zone of archaeological notification for RMP SL014-065 Historic Town. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage requested that a suitably qualified archaeologist be engaged to conduct archaeological monitoring of all ground disturbances resulting from the enhancement works.

Monitoring took place over intermittently over a period between 14 January 2022 and 20 September 2022. The works were carried out by a mechanical excavator, as well as by hand, under strict archaeological supervision. No deposits, artefacts or features of archaeological significance were noted during the works. Most features exposed were modern services and backfill material with occasional earlier drainage and water feed pipes, now defunct. No archaeological material was uncovered during the course of the street rehabilitation works.

### 5.3 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

A review of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage produced the following results for the subject area in which the scheme is in the townland of Rathedmond and environs of the PDA are listed below:

Reg.No.	Original Use	Date From
32006037	railway station	1850
32006038	house	1850
32006039	house	1850
32006040	house	1850
32006041	house	1850
32006042	house	1830
32006043	store/warehouse	1860
32006044	house	1840
32006045	house	1840
32006046	house	1840
32006047	house	1870
32006048	house	1870
32006049	house	1870
32006050	house	1870
32006051	house	1870
32006052	house	1870
32006053	store/warehouse	1820
32006054	store/warehouse	1860
32006055	store/warehouse	1860
32006056	store/warehouse	1880

### 5.4 County Development Plan

The Sligo County Development Plan (2017-2023) & Draft Sligo County Development Plan (2024-2030) was consulted for the townland of Rathedmond in which the PDA is located. The Sligo County Development Plan (2017-2023) contains the following RPS for the townland and in vicinity to the PDA.

RPS No	Description	NIAH No	Location
RPS 41	Ursuline Convent. Detached multiple-bay single-storey rendered gate lodge, built c. 1880. Rectangular plan, gabled projection to west with single-storey hip-roofed canted bay, single-storey flat-roofed extension to south. Hipped artificial slate roof, artificial	32322001	Finisklin Road

	<p>ridge tiles, brick corbelled chimneystack, painted timber bargeboards to west gable, uPVC half-round gutters on painted timber fascia on moulded render eaves corbel course. Felt roof covering to canted bay, moulded ogee cast-iron gutters on painted smooth-rendered moulded eaves corbel, cast-iron downpipe. Painted ruled-and-lined smooth-rendered walling, chamfered plinth, unpainted smooth-rendered walling to external boundary wall to east. Square-headed window openings, painted stone sills (chamfered to canted bay), painted one-over-one timber sash windows, paired to canted bay, painted timber casement window to north elevation. Original porch in north-west corner infilled, square-headed door opening, painted timber half-glazed panelled door, painted timber sidelights and plain-glazed overlight c. 1970. Located at main entrance to Ursuline Convent, tooled ashlar gate piers, chamfered plinths, octagonal caps, semi-circular wrought-iron overthrow with circular motif, rock-faced ashlar side walls to north and south each containing square-headed pedestrian opening, wrought-iron gates, driveway to school to west.</p>		
RPS 42	<p>Saint Anne's School. Detached eight-bay single-storey rendered school building, built 1851. Rectangular plan, two windows to west gable-end, metal framework of covered corridor now missing to south elevation, flat-roofed boiler house to south-east. Pitched slate roof, clay ridge tiles, unpainted roughcast corbelled chimneystacks, half-round beaded cast-iron gutters on drive-in brackets on projecting eaves corbel course, cast-iron downpipes. Unpainted roughcast walling. Round-headed window openings, slightly-projecting smooth-rendered reveals, painted stone sills, painted nine-over-nine timber sash windows. Square-headed door openings, painted vertically-sheeted timber doors, blank overlights. Located to south-east of Ursuline Convent site with gatelodge to north-east and lawns and driveway to</p>	32322002	Finisklin Road

	north and west.		
RPS 43	<p>Ursuline Convent. Detached thirteen-bay three-storey stone convent school, built c. 1860. Main block with central pedimented breakfront, four bays to either side, forward-thrusting gable ends, enclosed courtyard to rear; chapel c. 1870 to north-west; L-plan extension c. 1960 further to north-west; three-storey rendered classroom block c. 1990 set diagonally at north-east corner of 1960s extension; C-plan west wing c. 1890, linear extension c. 1880 linking main block with west wing south-west. Pitched slate roofs to main block, clay ridge tiles, ashlar limestone corbelled chimneystacks on ridge and to gable ends, ashlar verge copings, stone cross to apex of pediment to central breakfront, moulded cast-iron gutters. Squared-and-snecked rubble limestone walling, tooled ashlar limestone quoins, projecting corbelled chimney breasts to gable ends. Square-headed window openings to first and second floors, hood mouldings, stone sills, painted six-over-six timber sash windows. Round-headed window openings to ground floor, tooled ashlar limestone dressings, hood mouldings with label stops, stone sills, painted nine-over-six timber sash windows. Blind oculus in tympanum over central entrance breakfront, hood moulding. Some replacement uPVC casement windows c. 2000. Round-headed main entrance door opening, hood moulding, Doric columns carrying moulded entablature, varnished timber door with four raised-and-fielded panels, cobweb fanlight over, flat stone slabs to threshold. Set in landscaped grounds on elevated site, bitmac driveway from entrance gatescreen to east.</p>	32322003	Finisklin Road
RPS 44	<p>Warehouse. Attached multiple-bay five-storey stone (formerly rendered) warehouse, built c. 1870. Now in commercial use. Pitched corrugated asbestos to south slope of roof, skylight, cast-iron rainwater goods on corbelled eaves course. Unpainted sheeted timber goods canopied dormer with pulley-</p>	32006043	Finisklin Road

	<p>wheel with pitched slate roof to east side of south elevation. Squared rubble limestone walling painted to north elevation. Square-headed window openings to north elevation, flush sills, painted stone voussoirs, painted timber fixed light windows c. 1980. Square-headed window openings to south elevation, red brick dressings, timber casement windows boarded up. Square-headed full-height door opening to east end of south elevation, red brick reveals, timber beams between floors, painted timber vertically-sheeted double doors, ground floor blocked up. Square-headed door openings to north elevation, painted timber glazed double doors to east opening, polyester powder-coated aluminium door screen to west. Some single-storey buildings arranged around central courtyard accessed by a metal gate to east.</p>		
RPS 45	<p>End-of-terrace three-bay three-storey house, built c. 1850, entrance to east. One of a group of three. Adjoins mill building to east. Pitched slate roof, unpainted smooth-rendered chimneystacks with yellow clay octagonal pots, cast-iron gutters. Painted smooth-rendered ruled-and-lined walling, painted stone quoins to east. Square-headed window openings, painted moulded render surrounds, flat pediments to first floor windows, painted stone sills, uPVC casement windows c. 1990. Elliptical-headed door opening, moulded render surround, plain-glazed fanlight, asymmetric painted timber panelled double door flanked by Ionic columns with painted entablature, geometric tiling to lobby. Street fronted.</p>	32006044	1 Lyons Terrace Finisklin Road
RPS 46	<p>Terraced two-bay three-storey rendered house, built c. 1850. Pitched artificial slate roof, unpainted smooth-rendered corbelled chimneystack with octagonal yellow clay pots, cast-iron gutters. Unpainted smooth rendered ruled-and-lined walling on projecting plinth. Square-headed window openings, painted sills, uPVC casement windows c. 1990. Round-headed door</p>	32006045	2 Lyons Terrace Finisklin Road

	opening to east side of north elevation (main), plain-glazed fanlight, painted timber four-panel door. Street fronted.		
RPS 47	End-of-terrace four-bay three-storey rendered house, built c. 1850. Possibly originally two two-bay houses, various extensions to rear (south). Pitched artificial slate roof, painted smooth-rendered corbelled chimneystacks with yellow clay octagonal pots, moulded uPVC rainwater goods c. 1990. Painted smooth-rendered ruled-and-lined walls. Square-headed window openings, painted masonry sills, uPVC windows c. 1990. Round-headed stairwell window on west gable, painted masonry sill, uPVC window. Elliptical-headed door opening, moulded rendered concave surround, plain-glazed fanlight, painted timber panelled and glazed door c. 2000, single stone step to threshold. Street fronted with mild steel gate mounted on free-standing smooth-rendered pier to gable leading to rear.	32006046	3 Lyons Terrace Finisklin Road
RPS 48	Three-arch railway viaduct leading from station to quays, c. 1870, with flat steel arch to central bay, c. 1925	N/A	Finisklin Road

## 5.5 Record of Monuments and Places

The following sites are listed on the Record of Monuments and Places in vicinity of the subject site at Pirn Mill Road:

SMR No.	Class	Townland	ITM E	ITM N	Distance to PDA
SL014-062----	Ringfort - rath	RATHEDMOND	568262	836157	c.460 W
SL014-065----	Historic town	VARIOUS	569118	835935	c.40m E
SL014-065006—	Castle - Anglo-Norman masonry castle	RATHEDMOND	569000	836130	c. 300m E
SL014-065007—	Bastioned fort	RATHEDMOND	568995	836130	c. 300m E



**SL014-062----**

Classification: Ringfort - rath

Townland: Rathedmond

Description: None available.

**SL014-065---**

Classification: Historic Town

Townland: Abbeyquarter North, Abbeyquarter South, Knappagh Beg, Knocknaganny, Magheraboy, Rathedmond, Rathquarter

Description: Historic town

**SL014-065006--**

Classification: Castle - Anglo-Norman masonry castle

Townland: Rathedmond

Description: The following details have been extracted from the introductory essay in Gallagher and Legg (2012) to which the reader is referred for further information: 'There is no evidence of substantial habitation [at Sligo], however, until the 1240s when the AngloNorman baron Maurice Fitzgerald, a member of the Kildare Geraldines, constructed a castle in order to control the roads, the bridge and access from the sea. Fitzgerald had been granted large tracts of land in upper Connacht after 1235 and his prime focus was to secure the crossing over the Garvoge and to encourage economic development on his manor of Sligo. It is possible that he replaced the existing wooden bridge with a stone one. Sligo Castle immediately overlooked and secured the bridge, and the two were intimately connected. Fitzgerald used it as a base from which to attack the territory of the O'Donnells to the north in Tír Conaill.' 'The repeated destruction and reconstruction of Sligo Castle is symptomatic of the fact that its possession was contested between various Gaelic and Anglo-Norman families. Following a period of dispute between two AngloNorman families, the castle was handed over to Richard de Burgo; he also obtained the manor of Sligo in 1299 as part of a settlement with the Fitzgeralds, who then left Sligo for good. The castle was substantially rebuilt by de Burgo, then lord of Connacht, and may have incorporated remnants of the earlier one built by Maurice Fitzgerald. The location of successive castles at Sligo was a small rise overlooking the

harbour, bridge and town in what is now Quay Street, on the site of the nineteenth-century Town Hall."By the end of the fourteenth century the O'Connors emerged as keepers of Sligo Castle."When Sligo was visited by Sir Henry Sidney, lord deputy of Ireland, in 1566 he noted that the castle was 'fair and the greatest of any that we have seen in an Irishman's possession'."By 1584 Sir Richard Bingham, in his capacity of chief commissioner of Connacht and Thomond, had reduced the power of the O'Connors Sligo and had fortified the castle with crown forces. A map from 1587 clearly shows a castle with four towers defending the river at Sligo. The importance of the crown's possession of the castle was re-emphasised in 1588 when the Spanish Armada was blown north from the English Channel and came down the north-west coast of Ireland. William Taaffe was made sheriff of Co. Sligo and took charge of the castle that same year. Bingham reported to the lord deputy that, before leaving, O'Donnell had 'much broken' Sligo Castle and the priory. At the end of the year, it was decided that the castle should be restored by the former rebels, 'nine principal gentlemen of Galway and Roscommon', and in 1589 it was remitted to Donough O'Connor. Sligo was considered the key to Connacht and, by placing a strong garrison there, it was believed that the crown might pacify Connacht and prevent O'Donnell from returning to the province. A contemporary map of the Sligo area from 1589 shows a roughly sketched castellated structure with two towers, which may be an illustration of the old castle. In June 1595 a cousin of Bingham's was murdered in the castle and a rebel, Ulick Burke, the first earl of Clanricard, handed it over to O'Donnell. Following Bingham's attempt to retake the castle, O'Donnell demolished it 'so that he did not leave a stone of it on a stone, for fear the English might take it without his knowledge'. In 1596, however, Donough O'Connor was given custody of the castle and he endeavoured to rebuild it, although he had meagre resources. Three years later John Baxter issued a declaration concerning the rebuilding of Sligo Castle. In all likelihood the castle was in an extremely ruinous state and untenable. It was described as being 'in ruins' and the town burnt in 1602 and there is no sign of it on Baxter's map of c. 1600."In the late 1650s there were also large numbers of soldiers garrisoned in the town and another quadrilateral fort, known later as the Stone Fort, was built on the site of the old de Burgo castle to accommodate them.' (see SL014-065007-). (Gallagher and Legg 2012, 1-3, 14).

**SL014-065007—**

Classification: Bastioned fort

Townland: Rathedmond

Description: Built on the site of the existing de Burgo castle (SL014-065006-) this bastioned fort was constructed in the late 1650s to house a garrison. It is referred to as the 'new fort' in 1659 and again in 1663, although it appears that it was not then properly finished since the bastions were left hollow. When completed, the Stone Fort comprised high stone curtain walls, flanked by four corner bastions. Phillips's view of c. 1685 shows a substantial castellated structure with the four bastions rising above the adjoining curtain walls. Repaired at the time of the Williamite War in 1689 part of the site was leased to the Crown for use as a barracks in 1700. It was damaged by storm in 1757 and described as the 'Old fort leased' in 1781. Part of it was converted to stores in 1800 and the site was purchased by the corporation in 1861. It was partly demolished when Quay Street was widened in 1861 and a Town Hall was constructed on the site in 1865. Remains this fort were uncovered in the course of excavations undertaken on the site in 2002 (licence number 02E0651; Halpin 2002). (Gallagher and Legg 2012, 3, 14).

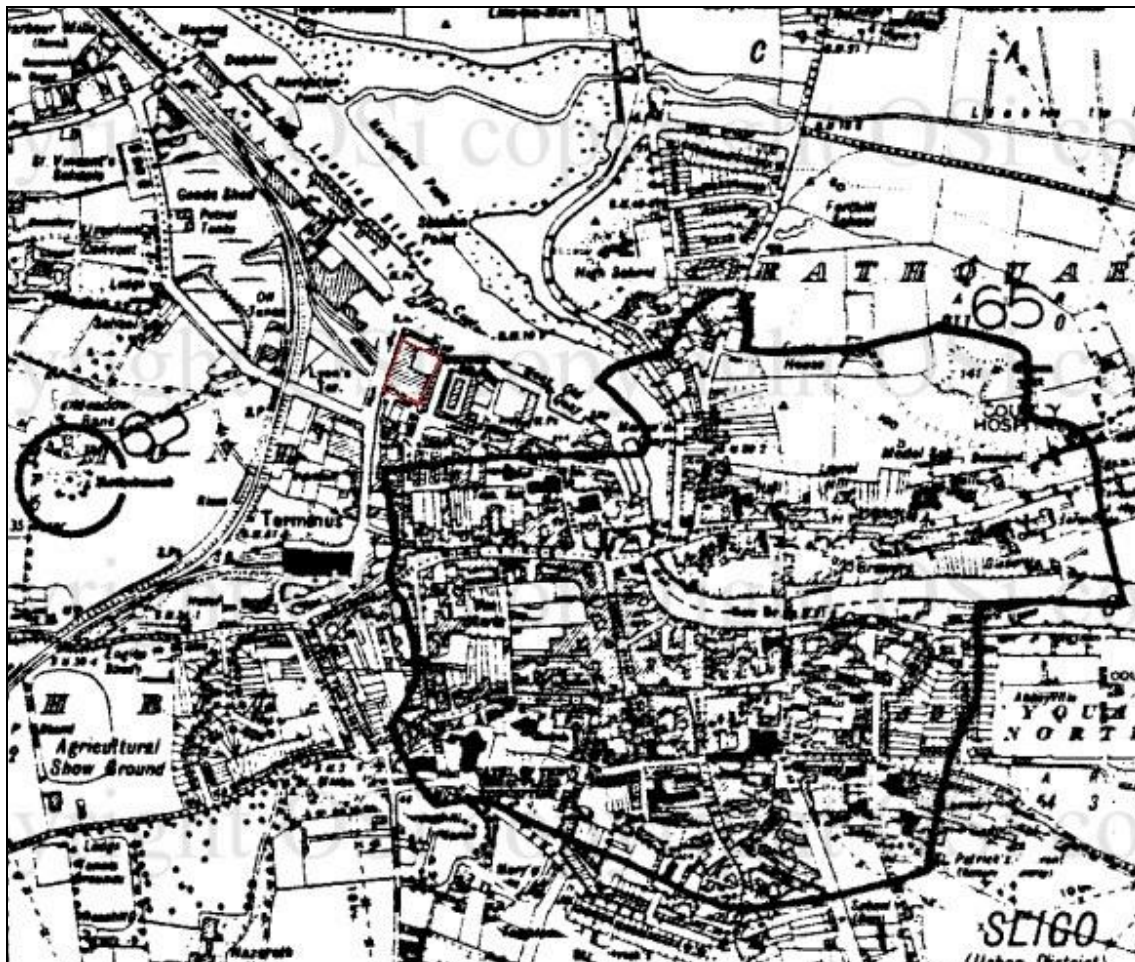
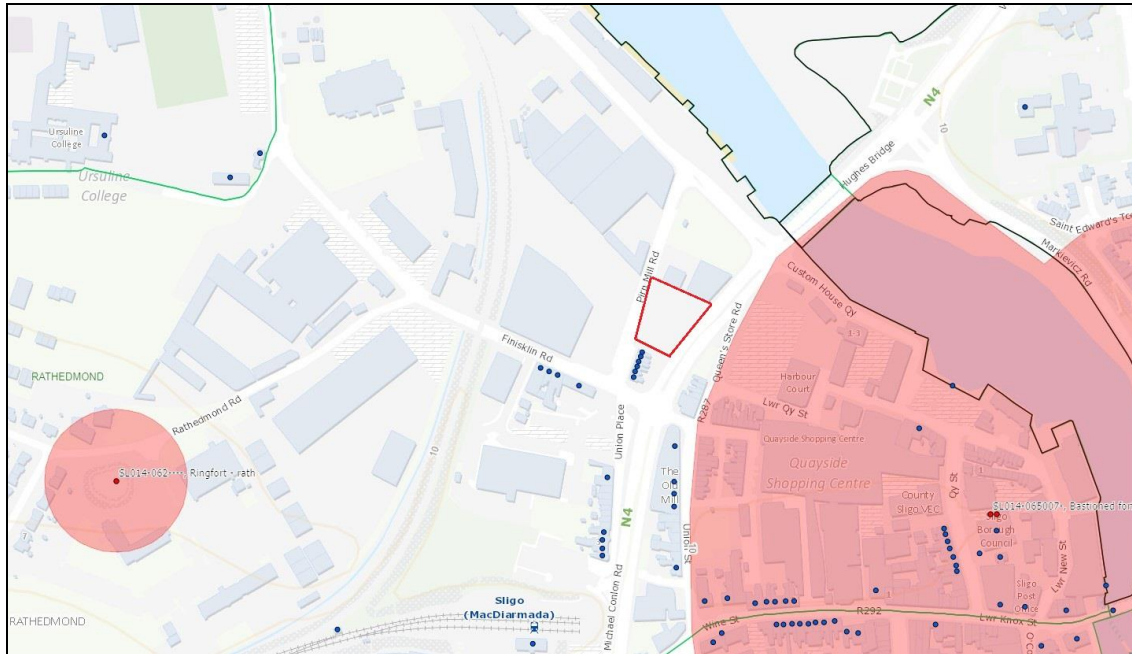


Figure 5: RMP Map 014 Sligo. Proposed development area is indicated in proximity to the ZAN for SL014-065--- Historic Town (Source: [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).



**Figure 6: Archaeological Survey of Ireland map showing the location of archaeological sites and monuments in proximity to the PDA.**

## 5.6 The National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files

The topographical survey for the in the direct vicinity and the wider area was consulted up to the year 2010 online at HeritageMaps.ie and produced no results for the vicinity of the subject site.

## 5.7 Toponymy

toponymy, taxonomic study of placenames, based on etymological, historical, and geographical information. A placename is a word or words used to indicate, denote, or identify a geographic locality such as a town, river, or mountain.

Rathedmond translates in Irish as *Ráth Éamainn* (genitive: *Ráth Éamainn*) meaning ‘the rath or ringfort of Edmond’.

## 5.8 Aerial Photography

Aerial photography of the development area was consulted. The main source was the Archaeological Survey of Ireland which clearly showed an aerial view of the scheme area and the surrounding landscape. No archaeological features were noted in the aerial photography in the footprint of the PDA.





Figure 7: Aerial photograph of the Pirn Road area showing the Proposed Development Area (Source: [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).

## 5.9 Cartographic Evidence

The following section considers major historic maps of County Sligo with reference to the townland of Rathedmond and Sligo Town including the subject site.

### 5.9.1 Early Maps of Sligo Town

The site does not appear on the Down Survey Map dated to the 1650's and the earliest references to Rathedmond is a map of Sligo Town by James Williamson dating to 1813-14. Mapping Sligo in the Early 19th Century; With an atlas of William Larkin's map of County Sligo, 1819. The majority of the early maps of the town and harbour area date to the 1830's up to the 1860s showing that Pirn Mill Road was a dock known as Lynn's Dock. The dock was referred to as nuisance with seaweed and vermin and in October 1879 the area was entirely infilled becoming Pirn Mill Road on its western boundary and to the north an extension to part of a Lynn's Dock which now linked Quay Street to Ballast Quay. The PDA appears to be infilled as part of this phase and was used as stores

and yards. The material used to fill Lynn's Dock in 1879 came from the demolished old quay wall and it took some years of filling the dock before it was finally completed into a road (Gallagher 2008, 577-601).



Figure 8: Map of Sligo Town and Parks 1813-14 by James Williamson showing 'Rathedmond Quarter' (Source: Irish Historic Towns Atlas, no. 24 Sligo by Fíona Gallagher and Marie-Louise Legg 2012).



Figure 9: 1837 map (Source: Irish Historic Towns Atlas, no. 24 Sligo by Fíona Gallagher and Marie-Louise Legg 2012).



Figure 10: 1837 St John's Parish Map (Source: Irish Historic Towns Atlas, no. 24 Sligo by Fíona Gallagher and Marie-Louise Legg 2012).

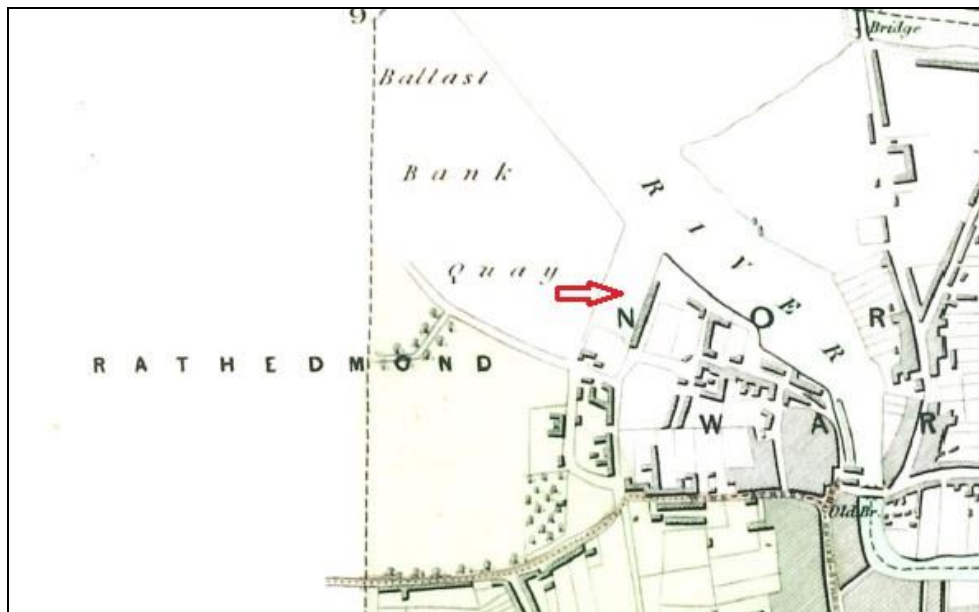


Figure 11: Map of parliamentary and municipal boundaries, 1837, by Thomas Larcom (Source: Irish Historic Towns Atlas, no. 24 Sligo by Fíona Gallagher and Marie-Louise Legg 2012).





Figure 12: 1861 Map of Sligo Harbour (Source: Irish Historic Towns Atlas, no. 24 Sligo by Fíona Gallagher and Marie-Louise Legg 2012).



Figure 13: 1868-1878 Ordnance Survey Map (Source: Irish Historic Towns Atlas, no. 24 Sligo by Fíona Gallagher and Marie-Louise Legg 2012).



### 5.9.2 Ordnance Survey 1838 edition (6" map)

The proposed scheme area is centred on the Pirn Mill Road west of the centre of Sligo town. The land in the surrounding area comprises the developing quays of Sligo Harbour south of Sligo Bay and the Garavogue River. The building along the east of the quay is labelled as custom house stores on the St John's Parish detailed map of the town and harbour area. There are no structures present within the footprint of the PDA and the edges of the quay are visible forming an open rectangular space where the water could be accessed.



Figure 14: Ordnance Survey Map c. 1838 of the Proposed Development Area (Source: [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).

### 5.9.3 Ordnance Survey c. 1890 edition (25" map)

The proposed development area can also be clearly seen on the second edition Ordnance Survey map dated to c. 1890. The most notable difference between this and the earlier map is the quay is no longer present and has been infilled and is now a road called Harbour Road. The building to the east of Harbour Road is labelled as Queen's Stores and the PDA appears to be a yard area. As with the earlier edition of the maps there are no potential archaeological features to note on this map.



Figure 15: Ordnance Survey Map c.1890 of the Proposed Development Area (Source: [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).

#### 5.9.4 Ordnance Survey c. 1940 edition (6" map)

The proposed development area can also be clearly seen on the second edition Ordnance Survey map dated to c. 1940. The most notable difference between this and the earlier map is the presence of additional buildings and more detailed field boundaries.

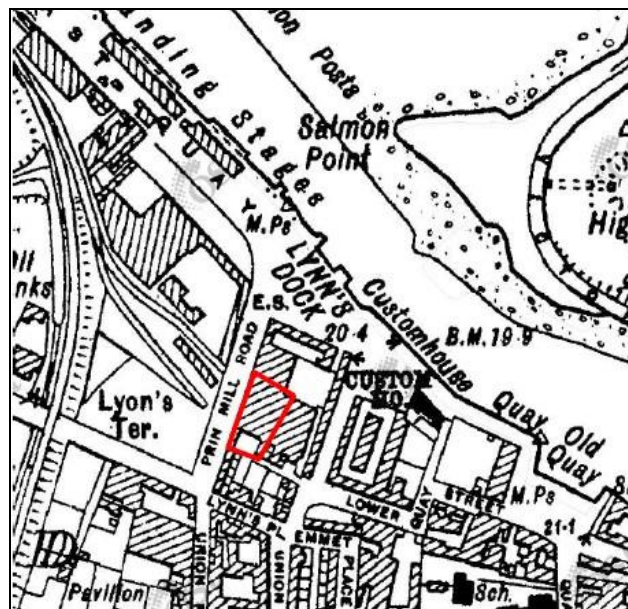


Figure 16: Ordnance Survey Map c.1940 of the Proposed Development Area (Source: [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).

## 6 RESULTS OF THE SITE INSPECTION

---

The site inspection took place on the 2nd of November 2023. The site conditions were good during the site inspection and all areas were fully accessible. The site is centred on Pirn Mill Road in the western area of Sligo Town. A comprehensive site walkover was conducted, and all areas inspected comprise existing built surfaces of tarmac and concrete pavement, gravelled areas, and minimal grass verge. Areas of the site has overgrowth of vegetation, particularly next to the northern boundary, this is a result of the disused nature of the yard.

Access to the site is via a double metal gate part of a metal fence that forms the western boundary of the site. Located at the southern end of the scheme are a terrace of houses and their associated yards. Bounding to the site to the east is the N4 Sligo Inner Relief Road, which was built in 2003, resulting in the demolition of numerous buildings in this area which was formerly occupied by stores and yard associated with the quays.

The western boundary of the site is the existing Pirn Mill Road, formerly known as Harbour Road. Prior to the infilling of the area, the development of the road and the construction of Lynn's Dock in the 1880s an open water quay existed here. The site in which the housing development is proposed is occupied by concrete yards surfaces and was formerly a stores and yards associated with the Queen's Stores and the former Customs House Stores.

The northern end of the site is occupied by retail premises and the exterior south walls of which forms the boundary to the site. The Pirn Mill from which the road derives its name formerly occupied the site of these retail units to the north of the proposed development area.

No additional material, features, deposits or objects of an archaeological nature or archaeological potential were noted during the site inspection within the proposed development area associated with the housing development.



**Plate 1: East facing view of the access gates to the PDA.**



**Plate 2: NE facing view of the PDA.**





**Plate 3: South facing view of the PDA.**



**Plate 4: SW facing view of the PDA.**





Plate 5: North facing view of the PDA.



Plate 6: North facing view of the PDA and the boundary with the neighbouring retail premises.

## 7 RESULTS OF THE MONITORING

### 7.1 Methodology

Archaeological monitoring of the site investigation works took place over the course of one days on the 2nd of November 2023. All site investigations works were conducted using a mechanical mini excavator equipped with both a toothed bucket and a grading bucket 0.50m wide under archaeological supervision. A total of 6 trial trenches and 1 soak pit were excavated and each was subject to archaeological monitoring.

### 7.2 Results:

No material of an archaeological nature was noted within any of the trial trenches, or the soak pit and the majority were filled with modern debris material such as stone and brick. The basal fills of the northern trenches comprised natural marl and sand. In trial trench 5 a well-preserved masonry brick wall was encountered along the eastern edge of the trench. It is unclear what this wall may be, but it is possibly a sewer. The stratigraphy corresponds with the history of the use of the site as an infilled reclaimed dock which was formerly the part of the harbour and the foreshore.

Cutting No.	Dimensions	Stratigraphy
Soak pit	2.5m length, 1.5m depth, 1.5m wide.	Modern infill material.
TT 1	21.5m length, 2.8m depth, 1.5m wide.	Modern infill over blackened sandy marl.
TT 2	1.5m length, 3.2m depth, 1.5m wide.	Modern infill over greyish black sandy marl.
TT 3	1.5m length, 2.2m depth, 1.5m wide.	Modern infill over greyish black sandy marl.
TT 4	1.5m length, 2.6m depth, 1.5m wide.	Modern infill over greyish black sandy marl.
TT 5	1.5m length, 2.3m depth, 1.5m wide.	Modern infill over greyish black sandy marl with oyster shell inclusions.
TT 6	1.5m length, 2.8m depth, 1.5m wide.	Modern infill over greyish black marl sand.





**Plate 7: Soak pit.**



**Plate 8: Trial Trench 1.**





**Plate 9: Trial Trench 2.**



**Plate 10: Trial Trench 3.**





**Plate 11: Trial Trench 4.**



**Plate 12: East facing view of Trial Trench 5 showing the brick wall.**





Plate 13: Trial Trench 6.

## 8 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The nature of the effects is assessed with reference to the Description of Effects provided in the EPA Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Effect Assessment Reports published in May 2022, and the EPA Advise notes on current practice in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements, 2003.

### 8.1 Potential Direct Effects

Direct negative effects may occur where sites of archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage significance are located within the footprint of the proposed development, which would potentially be impacted upon by ground disturbances. In relation to the proposed development, direct, physical effects on the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage can manifest themselves in the following ways:

- Where an archaeological, architectural, or cultural heritage site, structure, monument, or feature is located within an area where works takes place and the works either intentionally or unintentionally entail the alteration or removal of all or part of the site, structure, monument or feature a direct, physical effect will occur.

- Direct, physical effects can also occur in gaining access to the site. Where archaeological, architectural, or cultural heritage sites, structures, monuments, or features are intentionally or unintentionally removed or altered when transporting and/or facilitating access for machinery, equipment and/or materials to or from site a direct physical effect will occur; and
- There is the potential for direct, physical effects on previously unrecorded archaeological and architectural sites, structures, monuments, or features.

If these effects cannot be remediated, for example if archaeological deposits are destroyed during excavations, then the effects will be permanent.

## 8.2 Potential Direct Effects on Recorded Archaeological Monuments

No recorded archaeological monuments were identified within the proposed development works area through a site inspection or a desktop review of available resources. No topsoil stripping is proposed as the scheme area mainly comprises existing concrete surfaces, though subsurface groundworks are proposed. There will be no direct negative effects on the known archaeological monuments.

### 8.2.1 Potential direct effects on unrecorded Archaeological Monuments

No previously unrecorded features of archaeological potential were identified within the proposed works area during the site inspection and monitoring. However due to the location of the works area in proximity to several known monuments including RMP SL014-065---- Historic Town and the wider setting of the scheme within an area of archaeological interest there is moderate potential for direct negative effects on previously unknown subsurface archaeological material which may survive and is not yet identified, and which would be vulnerable to damage because of any subsurface works associated with proposed scheme.

### 8.2.2 Potential direct effects Architectural Sites

Several Protected Structures or NIAH sites are in the wider environs of the proposed works area. No previously unrecorded vernacular features were identified during the site inspection. No other architectural sites will be directly affected.

### 8.2.3 'Do Nothing scenario'

In this instance, there would be the possibility for potential unrecorded sub surface deposits.

#### 8.2.4 'Worst Case' scenario'

In this case, the proposed subsurface works associated with the scheme could potentially negatively affect previously unknown sites resulting in the loss or damage of archaeological artefacts and features.

### 8.3 Potential Visual Effects on Setting

Effects on setting are primarily visual and examine the effect of the proposed works upon the setting of a site within the wider landscape. Visual effects can be reduced with sensitive site development, adhering to recommended exclusion zones and screening. The effect of the development is usually proportional to the extent to which that development is visible to and from the extant recorded monuments and architectural features.

#### 8.3.1 Archaeology Sites

There are several recorded archaeological sites/features listed in the Archaeological Survey of Ireland as being in and around the surrounding environs of the site, to ZAN for SL014-065---- Historic Town is closely located c.40m east of the PDA. Following a site inspection, as well as a review of online sources, there will likely be negligible or no visual effect on the setting of known recorded archaeological sites by the proposed development which will not be in the line of sight of any monument.

#### 8.3.2 Architectural Sites

No architectural site will be directly visually affected by the proposed works.

## 9 STATEMENT OF EFFECT

---

The area under archaeological assessment is located at in Sligo town centred on Pirn Mill Road within the townland of Rathedmond. The proposed development entails the development of housing development at a vacant yard between Pirn Mill Road and the N4. The site inspection was conducted on the 2nd of November 2023. No additional material/features/deposits/objects of an archaeological nature were noted during the site inspection or the monitoring of engineering trial trenches, or a review of the available desktop sources, within the proposed development area. The proposed development will have no perceptible direct effect either physical or visual on any known archaeological site or monument associated with the environs of the scheme. However, given the archaeological nature of the environs close to RMP SL014-065---- Historic Town there may be increased potential for a direct effect on unknown or previously unidentified subsurface archaeological material that may survive below ground within the proposed development area.

## 10 RECOMMENDATIONS

---

The proposed development at Pirn Mill Road is in the vicinity of RMP SL014-065---- Historic Town. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted within the development area during the site inspection. The proposed development will not have direct impact, either physical or visual, on any known archaeological site or monument in the vicinity of the proposed scheme.

Due to archaeological potential of location of the proposed development area in the vicinity of RMP SL014-065---- Historic Town it is recommended that the proposed works associated with the development that involve subsurface excavation should be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring the schedule of which is to be determined by a suitably qualified archaeologist in consultation with the National Monuments Service and the National Museum of Ireland.

Archaeological monitoring should be conducted by a suitably qualified archaeologist, under license to the Planning and Heritage Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and the National Museum of Ireland, with provision being made for full recording and excavation of any archaeological features or deposits which may be exposed.

**Please note that all recommendations in this report are subject to approval by the Planning and Heritage Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Museum of Ireland.**

## 11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

Danaher, Ed. 2007. Monumental Beginnings, the archaeology of the N4 Sligo Inner Relief Road. NRA Scheme Monographs 1. Dublin.

Gallagher, F., 2008. The Streets of Sligo, Urban Evolution over the course of seven centuries. Fiona Gallagher, Burton Street, Sligo.

Gallagher, F. & Marie-Louise Legg, 2012. Irish Historic Towns Atlas No. 24 Sligo. Royal Irish Academy, Dublin.

Timoney, M. A. (Ed), 2013. Dedicated to Sligo, Thirty-four Essays on Sligo's Past. Publishing Sligo's Past, Sligo.

Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands, 1999. *Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*, Government publications, Dublin.

Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands, 1999. *Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation*. Govn. Publications, Dublin.

The Heritage Council, 2000. Archaeology & Development: Guidelines for Good Practice for Developers. The Heritage Council of Ireland Series, Kilkenny.

The Planning and Heritage Section of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. *Sites and Monuments Record, County Sligo*.

EPA, 1995. *Advice notes on current practice in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements*. Dublin. Updated May 2022.

National Monuments Acts 1930-2014.

National Museum of Ireland. *Topographical files, County Sligo*.

[www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)

[www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)

[www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie)

[www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie)

## 12 DESCRIPTION OF EFFECTS

---

Description of effects as per the guidelines issued in May 2022 by the EPA 'Environmental Effect Assessment Reports Guidelines' (Page 49-50).

### Quality of Effects

It is important to inform the non-specialist reader whether an effect is positive, negative or neutral.

### Positive Effects

A change which improves the quality of the environment (for example, by increasing species diversity, or improving the reproductive capacity of an ecosystem, or by removing nuisances or improving amenities).

### Neutral Effects

No effects or effects that are imperceptible, within normal bounds of variation or within the margin of forecasting error.

### Negative/Adverse Effects

A change which reduces the quality of the environment (for example, lessening species diversity or diminishing the reproductive capacity of an ecosystem, or damaging health or property or by causing nuisance).

### Describing the Significance of Effects

'Significance' is a concept that can have different meanings for different topics – in the absence of specific definitions for different topics the following definitions may be useful (also see Determining Significance).

### Imperceptible

An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.

### Not Significant

An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.

### Slight Effects

An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.

### Moderate Effects

An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.

### Significant Effects

An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity, alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.

### Very Significant



An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity, significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.

#### Profound Effects

An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics.

#### Describing the Extent and Context of Effects

Context can affect the perception of significance. It is important to establish if the effect is unique or, perhaps, commonly or increasingly experienced.

#### Extent

Describe the size of the area, the number of sites and the proportion of a population affected by an effect.

#### Context

Describe whether the extent, duration or frequency will conform or contrast with established (baseline) conditions (is it the biggest, longest effect ever?)

#### Describing the Probability of Effects

Descriptions of effects should establish how likely it is that the predicted effects will occur so that the CA can take a view of the balance of risk over advantage when making a decision.

#### Likely Effects

The effects that can reasonably be expected to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.

#### Unlikely Effects

The effects that can reasonably be expected not to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.

#### Describing the Duration and Frequency of Effects

'Duration' is a concept that can have different meanings for different topics – in the absence of specific definitions for different topics the following definitions may be useful.

#### Momentary Effects

Effects lasting from seconds to minutes.

#### Brief Effects

Effects lasting less than a day.

#### Temporary Effects

Effects lasting less than a year.

#### Short-term Effects

Effects lasting one to seven years.

#### Medium-term Effects

Effects lasting seven to fifteen years.

#### Long-term Effects

Effects lasting fifteen to sixty years.

#### Permanent Effects

Effects lasting over sixty years.

#### Reversible Effects

Effects that can be undone, for example through remediation or restoration.

#### Frequency of Effects

Describe how often the effect will occur (once, rarely, occasionally, frequently, constantly – or hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, annually).

#### Describing the Types of Effects

##### Indirect Effects (a.k.a. Secondary or Off-site Effects)

Effects on the environment, which are not a direct result of the project, often produced away from the project site or because of a complex pathway.

##### Cumulative Effects

The addition of many minor or insignificant effects, including effects of other projects, to create larger, more significant effects.

##### 'Do-nothing Effects'

The environment as it would be in the future should the subject project not be carried out.

##### 'Worst-case' Effects

The effects arising from a project in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail.

##### Indeterminable Effects

When the full consequences of a change in the environment cannot be described.

**Irreversible Effects**

When the character, distinctiveness, diversity or reproductive capacity of an environment is permanently lost.

**Residual Effects**

The degree of environmental change that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have taken effect.

**Synergistic Effects**

Where the resultant effect is of greater significance than the sum of its constituents (e.g. combination of SO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> to produce smog).