

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
FOR PROPOSED RECREATIONAL TRAIL
AT DRUMSHANBO, CO. LEITRIM
ON BEHALF OF
LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL



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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 an archaeological impact assessment carried out by Fadó Archaeology at Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim on behalf of Leitrim County Council. The proposed works entails development of trail at Drumshanbo Narrow Gauge Railway, Co. Leitrim.

The proposed scheme entails the following: Leitrim County Council propose to establish a trail in an existing railway and construction of a section of trail in a greenfield site at Drumshanbo. The trail is approx. 1km in total length.

The site inspection took place on the 18th of May 2023. No finds or features of archaeological significance were noted during the site inspection along the existing railway, or in the proposed trail through the pastoral lands to the south. The development will have no direct or negative impact on any known recorded archaeological sites or monuments in the vicinity of the proposed new trail. There will be no visual impact on the recorded archaeological sites or monuments in the vicinity of the proposed recreational trail.

The proposed enhancement of the existing railway will have no negative effect on any archaeological remains. Therefore, no archaeological mitigation is required for the works in this section. Due to the location of the remainder of the scheme in greenfield

areas, it is recommended that where the new trail is proposed within the two fields the works could uncover previously unidentified archaeological material.

In summary the recommendations are as follows: 1) Proposed location of the sections of trail within the footprint of the existing railway should not be subject to any archaeological mitigation. 2) Proposed location of the trail within the greenfield area (Field 1) should be subject to a programme of monitoring of topsoil removal and all groundworks involving subsurface work due to the possibility of archaeological material being present.

The recommended programme of 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, with provision being made for full recording, preservation in situ or 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 an archaeological impact assessment in Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim on behalf of Leitrim County Council. The following assessment report documents the project, the existing environment at the site and assesses the potential impact the proposed trail development may have had on any above ground or subsurface archaeological remains.

1.2 Purpose of the Project

Leitrim County Council in conjunction with the Drumshanbo Community Council is proposing the construction of a walk/trail on the periphery of Drumshanbo Town that will link the Dowra road (R207) with the Church Road and onto the Ballinamore road (R208). The route of the proposed trail will follow the line of the disused Cavan-Leitrim Narrow gauge railway line where possible, this railway line ran from Arigna to Ballinamore passing through Drumshanbo and closed in 1959. The proposed walk/trail will provide a scenic recreational use for locals and visitors to the town and connect housing developments on the Dowra road and on the Church Road with the national school and the GAA grounds from an active travel perspective.

1.3 Scheme Overview

The route of the former Cavan – Leitrim Railway is still clearly visible in parts with the majority of the existing corridor approximately 5-6 metres wide. There is sufficient space for the construction of the proposed development within the original land-take of the railway.

The entire route will be cleared of existing vegetation, trees / saplings which have grown within the corridor with hedges cut back on either side of the corridor. Fences and drainage associated with the former rail line will be installed. The detail along the route will be determined at the Detailed Design stage of the project which will adhere to the principals of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (formerly National Roads Authority) 'Rural Cycle Scheme Design'. Where the trail leaves the disused railway, it will follow along field boundaries until it reaches the Ballinamore approach road(R208). The trail will not exceed 12% slope. There will be some cut and fill along short sections of the field sections to achieve a slope of 12%.

The proposed trail will predominantly be constructed at a width of 2.5m. with an additional grass verge on either side of the track. A sealed asphaltic concrete surface will be provided on the section between the Dowra road and the Church Road with low level public lighting. The finished surface

on the section between the Church Road and the Ballinamore road will be unsealed gravel compacted with no public lighting. Drainage of the trail will vary along the route depending on whether it's running along a raised section of embankment or down in a cutting. In areas where the trail is running along an embankment, drainage will be onto the grass verge. In areas where the trail is running through a cutting, drainage will consist of filter drains on either side. These filter drains will empty into nearby drainage ditches and streams along the route. Safety fences will be erected along the route and shall comprise of 1.2m to 1.4m high stock-proof or timber post and rail fencing. The entire length is approximately 1000m.

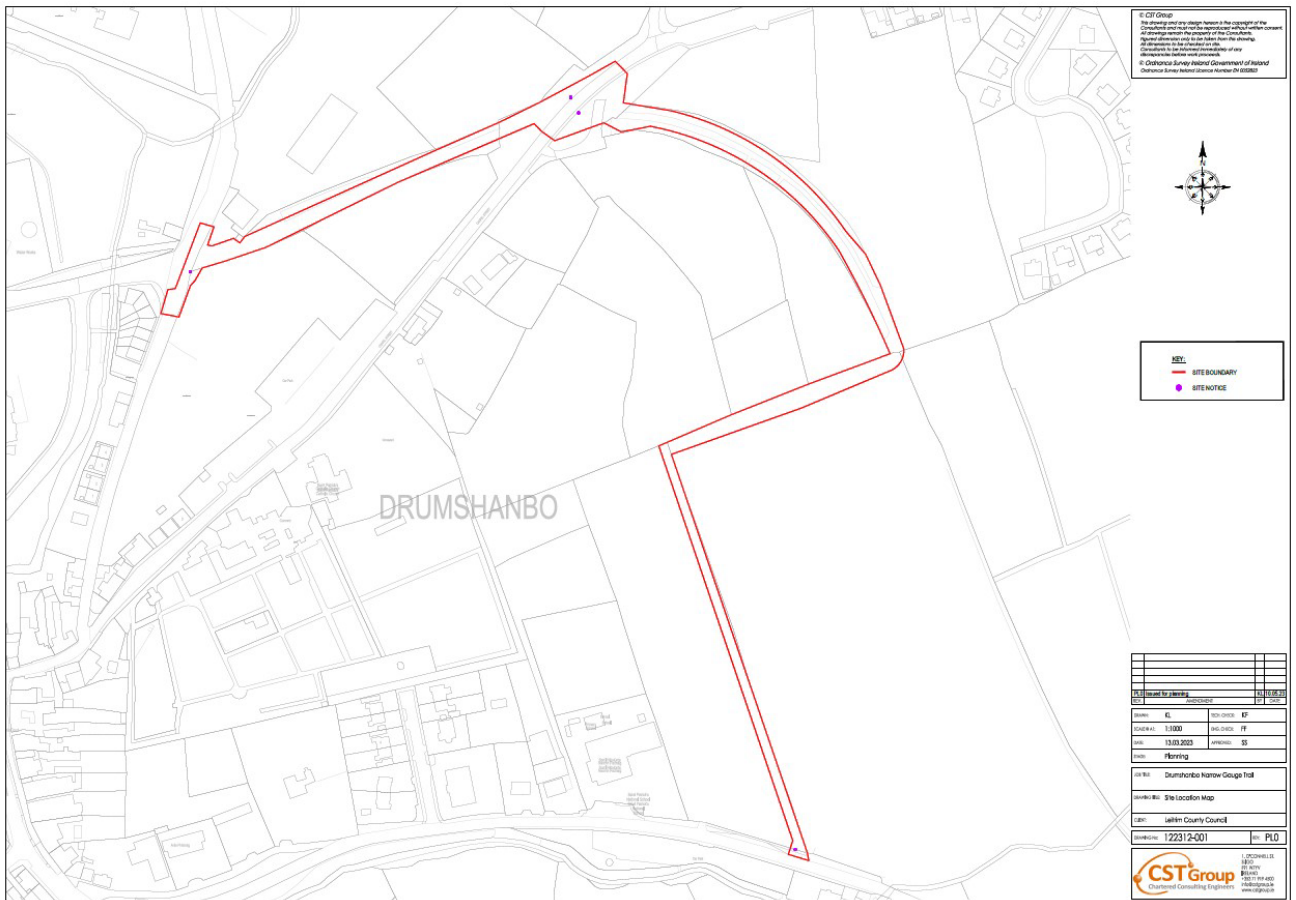


Figure 1: Site map of the proposed trail at Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim.

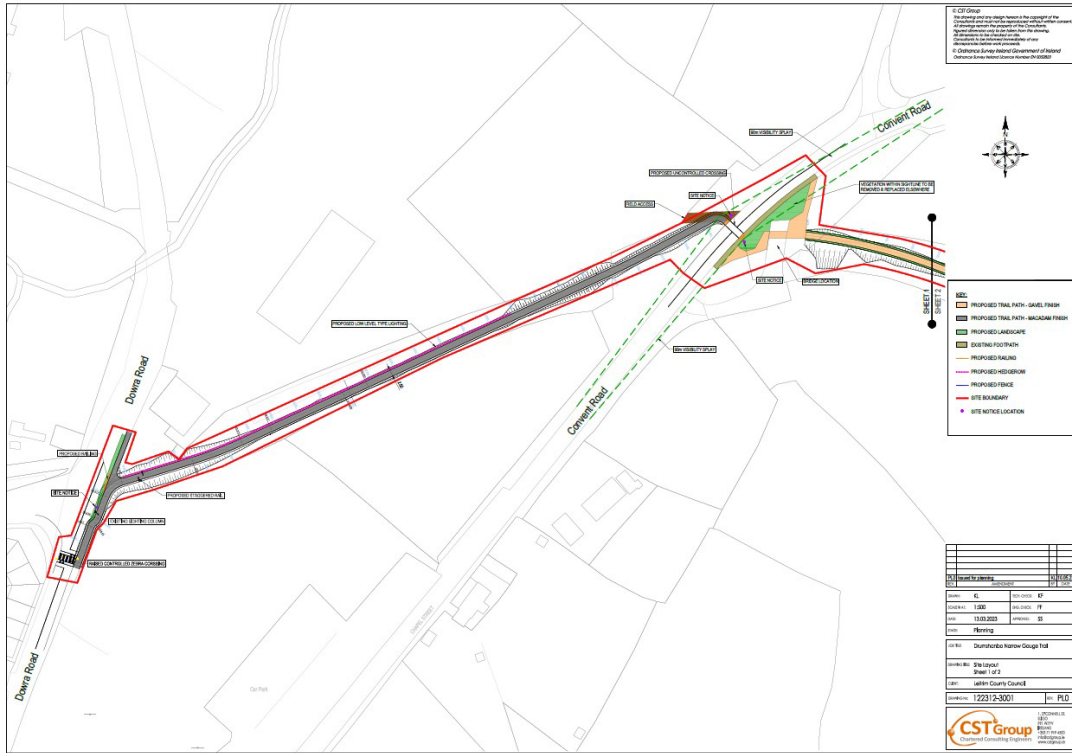


Figure 2: Detailed development plan of the northern end of the trail.

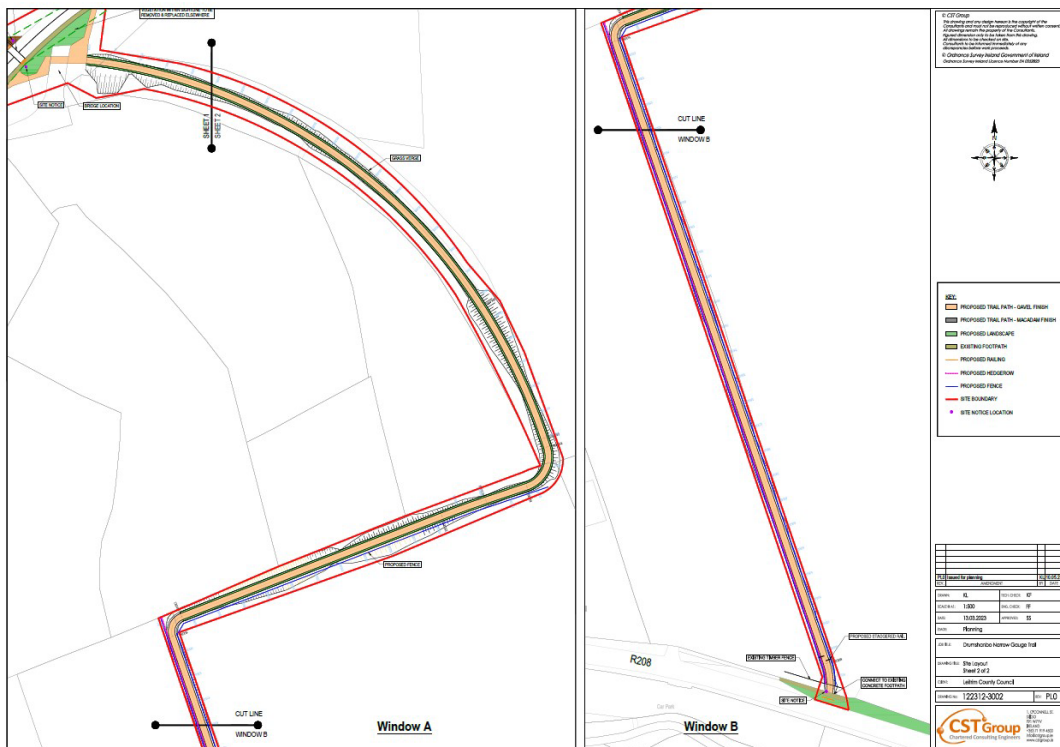


Figure 3: Detailed development plan of the mid-section and the southern end of the proposed trail.

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 (DHLGH) in the form of a Ministerial Consent.

County Development Plan

The Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 was consulted. It contains the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) for County Leitrim.

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 (1930-14). 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 023 of the O.S six-inch series for Leitrim (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.

Leitrim County Library

The Local Studies section of Leitrim County Library is housed in Leitrim County Library in Ballinamore. Several 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. 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.

Lewis Topographical Dictionary 1837

Samuel Lewis first published his two volumes of The Topographical Dictionary of Ireland in 1837. His main aim, along with his previous topographical dictionaries and maps of the United Kingdom, was to give in 'a condensed form', a reliable and unbiased description of each place. Arranged alphabetically by place (village, parish, town, etc.), it provides a comprehensive description of all Irish localities as they existed at the time of publication. Lewis gives details about every parish, town, and village in Ireland, including numbers of inhabitants, the economy, history, topography, religion and parish structures, administration and courts, schools, and much more. He also gives the names of the principal inhabitants (generally landlords, merchants, and professionals). Lewis's dictionary is the first detailed study of its kind for Ireland, and since it was published just prior to the Irish Potato Famine (1845-49) it is a valuable resource used widely by historians and genealogists alike.

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.

2 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT

2.1 Site locational details

The existing railway and proposed trail are in the townland of Drumshanbo, in Co. Leitrim. Drumshanbo is located 13.5 km north of Carrick-on-Shannon via the R280 and R207. The trail is located a short distance east of Drumshanbo, a town in north Co. Leitrim. The proposed recreational trail is to be located along the disused railway line and the remainder is located within the southern fields along the boundary line. The fields in use as pastureland and are located on a south facing sloping hillock.

Study area	OS Sheet number	Central ITM	Townland
Leitrim	LE023	597791/811299	Drumshanbo

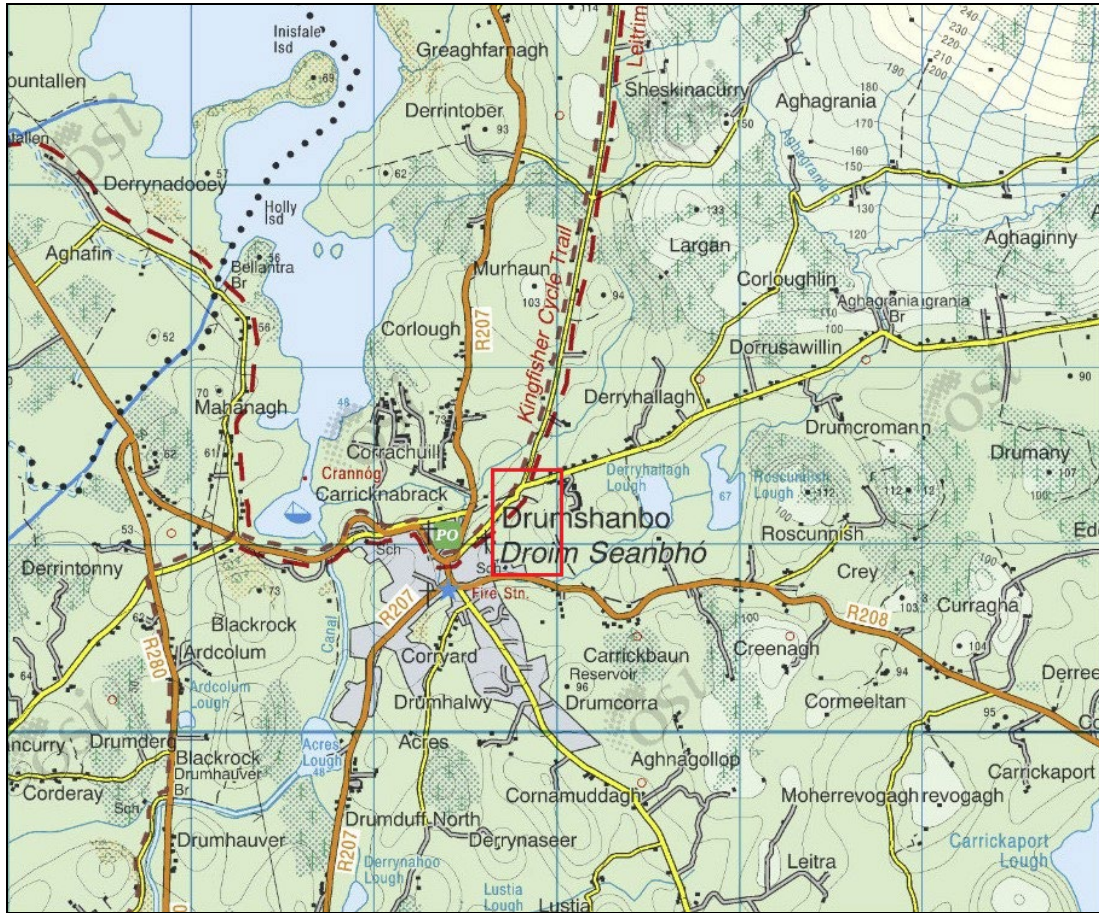


Figure 5: OSI Discovery series map of the Drumshanbo area (source: heritagemaps.ie).

2.2 Description of the Site

Access to the site is via Chapel Street, northeast of the town centre of Drumshanbo. The trail will commence on the Dowra Road where a controlled pedestrian crossing is proposed to allow safe crossing of the R207 and then extend along the route of the disused railway line to the Chapel Street. It will then cross the Chapel Street at an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing and continue along the disused railway line for approx. 680m. It will then turn off the disused railway line along a field boundary and connect with the Ballinamore road (R208) adjacent to the National School. This project will add to the development of a full walking loop of Drumshanbo town along a rich industrial heritage route of the Narrow-Gauge Railway which closed in 1959. It encompasses historic sites along the route including the Railway Station House and the iconic Water Tower, along with providing scenic views of Sliabh an Iarainn, Lough Allen and parts of the town.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Solid Geology and Soil Type

The geology of the region consists of broad physiographic division as drumlin landscape. The principal soil in the area is made up of gleys (85%), with associated soils of interdrumlin peat and peaty gleys (15%). The substrate type is mostly Upper Carboniferous limestone and shale, and sandstone glacial till.

3.2 Landscape

The scheme is in lowlands in the foothills of Sliabh Iarainn and close to Lough Allen. The scheme is located east and northeast of the core of Drumshanbo town. The land to the south is in use as grazing pastoral land and the remainder of the scheme to the north and northeast is within the footprint of the disused railway line.

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, if 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. Significant traces of Mesolithic inhabitation have been found around the lakeshore of Lough Allen Co. Leitrim, with hundreds of stone tools collected. Most of the stone tools are characteristic of the Later Mesolithic, with possible evidence for the Early Mesolithic.

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. Leitrim is well represented by megalithic monuments of the Neolithic with several court tombs present most notable of which is Corracloona Court Tomb, commonly called Prince Connell's Grave. A pair of well-preserved court tombs can be found at Tullysheherry close to Manorhamilton. This would certainly suggest both a vibrant population' and economy. It was in the Neolithic that the change from hunting and gathering to farming came about. The similarity of artefacts recovered from these tombs both locally and nationwide would indicate that there was a well-established communications network in this period. The position of these tombs would suggest that the surrounding land was fertile and so the peaty soils must not have been laid down yet. Pollen samples would seem to point to the fact that these monuments were built on open areas near to pasture areas.

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. 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 *fulachta fiadh*. These are mounds of burnt stone usually associated with troughs (often wood lined) often associated with heating water for cooking. Several of these monuments have been excavated in County Leitrim.

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 crannogs (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. The defensive element of this site is composed of two bank and ditch enclosures incorporating earthen and stone ramparts. Promontory forts situated on cliff edges are a monument associated with the Iron Age. 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.

The Keshcarrigan bronze bowl was discovered in 1854 in a river flowing into Lough Scur, which lies just north of Keshcarrigan in Co. Leitrim. Iron Age in date and measuring approximately 14 cm in diameter, it may have been a ceremonial drinking cup. The bowl is fashioned out of beaten bronze and was probably finished on a lathe, as a chuck mark is visible on its base. The handle is soldered on and is decorated with a distinctive bird's head motif, which may represent a swan or duck. This simple but striking artefact is reminiscent of 1st century AD bowls from southern Britain, and it may represent an import. It would undoubtedly have been a prestigious item and its deposition in a watery context may represent ritual activity rather than an accidental loss.

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 church sites in Co. Leitrim include Cleighran, Cloone, Cloonmorris, Fenagh, Kilargue, Rossclogher, Rossinver and Tullaghan.

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.

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. Almost all the religious foundations set up by the Anglo Normans were suppressed in the wake of the Reformation in the 16th century.

Creevelea Abbey is a medieval Franciscan friary located in Dromahair, Co. Leitrim close to the River Bonet. Founded in 1508 by Eóghan O'Rourke, Lord of West Bréifne. The Franciscans were driven out by the Cromwellian Army in the 1650s. After the Restoration, the abbey remained in use until 1837. The remains consist of the church (nave, chancel, transept, and choir), chapter house, cloister and domestic buildings. The belltower was converted to living quarters in the 17th century. Carved in the cloister is an image of Saint Francis of Assisi preaching to birds.

4.7 History of Drumshanbo

The Sliabh an Iarainn mountain dominates the Drumshanbo area. Iron ore has been dug at Sliabh an Iarainn since the 1600s. Commercial Iron works existed around Sliabh an Iarainn c. 1630, and though nearly all were destroyed during the Irish Rebellion of 1641, they were revived after the Irish Confederate Wars at the earliest, or in the 1690s after the Battle of the Boyne. Many smelting works employed English or other foreigners instead of Irish labour which generated much local hostility. The siting of Smelting works contiguous to Lough Allen allowed for the transportation of Pig Iron in boats of up to forty tons. Commercial iron mining declined after c. 1750 – c. 1760 as deforestation exhausted the fuel for burning charcoal.

After the ironstone melted, the Pig iron was brought to Drumshanbo Finery forge to the south of Lough Allen to produce the malleable iron product which was transported to Dublin and Limerick by boat. Folklore claims the "Iron ore was conveyed to the Drumshanbo furnaces by boat, on Lough Allen. The sources of supply, were, the Slieven an Iern, Ballinaglera, Arigna mountains, all situated around Lough Allen. It is thought that the town of Drumshanbo had its origin in these industries". Drumshanbo Iron works closed in 1765.

Lewis Topographical Dictionary 1837 described Drumshanbo as follows:

‘Drumshambo, a village, in the parish of Kiltoghart, barony and county of Leitrim, and province of Connaught; 6 ¾ miles (N. by E.) from Carrick-on-Shannon; containing 479 inhabitants. It is situated near the southern extremity of Lough Allen, not far from the point where the Shannon emerges from it, and close to that where a new line of navigation from Battle-bridge enters it. Works for smelting and manufacturing the iron ore found in the neighbourhood were formerly carried on here and were continued in operation till 1765. The iron-stone was chiefly collected from the eastern shore of Lough Allen, and in the beds of the streams that descend from the Slieve-an-erin mountains to the lake, where small workings area also visible; vast woods, which formerly clothed the neighbouring valleys, supplied charcoal, and limestone as a flux was quarried close to the works, which appear to have consisted only of one small square blast furnace, from which the iron was carried to the neighbouring village, where it was forged into bars. The village is constabulary police station, and has a penny post to Carrick-on-Shannon. The second church for the parish in this village and was erected by a loan of £1107.13. from the late Board of First Fruits in 1829. It is a gothic structure ornamented with a tower and pinnacles: there area also a R. C. and a Wesleyan Methodist chapel’. (<https://www.libraryireland.com/topog/D/Drumshambo-Leitrim.php>)

5 DESKTOP DATA

5.1 National Monuments

No national monuments listed in state care or ownership are in the vicinity of the subject site.

5.2 Previous Archaeological Work

A search of the database www.excavations.ie indicated that several archaeological investigations have been carried out in the townland of Drumshanbo and the wider environs of the proposed trail:

2001:729 - Corrachuill, Drumshanbo, Leitrim

County: Leitrim Site name: Corrachuill, Drumshanbo

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 01E1219, 01E1220

Author: Ciara MacManus, ADS, Unit 48, Westlink Enterprise Centre, 30–50 Distillery Street, Belfast BT12 5BJ.

Site type: No archaeological significance

Period/Dating: —

ITM: E 597379m, N 810960m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 54.047800, -8.040024

Test trenching was carried out on two anomalous mounds, identified during field-walking, within a proposed development area on the east bank of Lough Allen, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim. Two trenches were mechanically excavated, one across each of the mounds. The trench across Mound 1 indicated that it was a field clearance cairn, while Mound 2 was identified as a natural formation of peat around a spring.

2003:1109 - CHURCH STREET, DRUMSHANBO, Leitrim

County: Leitrim Site name: CHURCH STREET, DRUMSHANBO

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 03E0180

Author: Christopher Read, North West Archaeological Services Ltd, Cloonfad Cottage, Cloonfad, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.

Site type: No archaeological significance

Period/Dating: —

ITM: E 597123m, N 811126m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 54.049287, -8.043933

The proposed development on Church Street, Drumshanbo, is to consist of a small addition to a recently refurbished schoolhouse. The site is located near the Church of Ireland graveyard. Monitoring of excavation works associated with the development was carried out on 21 February 2003. Prior to excavation, a stone wall was removed from the site and, with the existing hard standing, an area measuring roughly 3m north–south by 1.5m was left to be excavated. All excavation work was carried out by machine. The total depth of material excavated was 0.4–0.5m and consisted of sod and a dark-brown clay, with considerable inclusions of rubble, red brick and modern rubbish. No archaeological features or finds were revealed during the course of the excavation.

5.3 County Development Plan

The Leitrim County Development Plan (2023-2029) was consulted for the Drumshanbo area. The landscape north-east of Drumshanbo towards Sliabh Iarainn transitions from undulating hill farmland to moorland hills to the cliffed uplands associated with Sliabh Iarainn. This area forms part of the Sliabh Iarainn & Corry Mountain Uplands and is designated as an Area of High Visual Amenity under the plan on account of its wide expansive views of these uplands.

Drumshanbo has rich heritage value, unique character and sense of place for the town centre, which is recognised in this Plan with the town centre being designated an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA). There are several listings in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) for Drumshanbo, including the railway on which the trail is centre, therefore within the direct vicinity of the PDA.

RPS No. 14 NIAH 810821 Drumshanbo Methodist Church

Church built in 1860. Detached single-cell gable-fronted three-bay with single-storey vestry to rear. Pitched tiled roof. Ashlar sandstone façade with pedimented gable with datestone. Pebble-dashed side walls. Latticed stained glass lancets with tooled limestone surrounds. Timber sash windows to vestry in square-headed openings with tooled limestone block-and-start surrounds. Timber battened door with cast-iron hinges and a pointed-arched carved stone surround flanked by pointed-arched lancet windows with carved surrounds and stained glass. Link corridor connects chapel with adjacent former manse. Cast-iron railings and gates to front of site. Sandstone rubble wall to west of Church running parallel to stream.

RPS No. NIAH 78 811078 Drumshanbo St. Patrick's Roman Catholic

Church built c.1880. Detached on a T-plan with bell tower and porches to northern gable and transepts. Pitched slate roof with bronze cross finials. Copper roof to bell tower and statue of St. Patrick in round-headed niche to lowest stage. Random dressed sandstone walls and plinth with string course to tower and with roughly-dressed quoins and surrounds to openings. Lancet windows with stained glass and pointed-arched windows to porches and west gable. Timber doors. Variety of grave markers to graveyard. Site bounded by random sandstone and rendered walls with wrought-iron railings, rendered gate piers and cast-iron gates.

RPS No. 79 NIAH 810951 Drumshanbo Former National Irish Bank

Built in 1903. Corner-sited three-storey bank with three-bay frontage to two streets, with Dutch gables to corner bays and three-bay two-storey return to lesser street with projecting single-storey annexe. Pitched slate roof with brick chimneystacks and cast-iron rainwater goods. Brick walls with sandstone dressings. Single-pane timber sash windows in segmental-headed openings with terracotta label mouldings. Corner-sited entrance with projecting carved pedimented doorcase and timber panelled double door. Shopfront comprising three-light window. Side entrance with brick round-headed opening, hood moulding with timber panelled door. Recessed side entrance porch with round-headed opening and hood moulding, all in brick and approached by steps. Building fronts directly onto streets.

RPS No. 80 NIAH 810883 Drumshanbo Berry's Tavern

Built c.1850. Terraced five-bay two-storey house with 1980s pub front. Pitched slate roof with rendered chimneystacks. Shells set decoratively in render to façade with stucco quoins and plinth. Replacement uPVC windows with block-and-start surrounds and sills. Timber door with over-light and block-and-start surround. Integral carriage arch to north end. Shopfront with display windows flanking double doors and rendered fascia board. Building fronts directly onto street.

RPS No. 81 Drumshanbo Road

Elevated road/pedestrian area with cut stone retaining wall & steps.

RPS No. 82 Drumshanbo Railway

Drumshanbo Bridge, Cavan & Leitrim Railway.

5.4 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage of Ireland

A search of the database www.buildingsofireland.ie revealed the following structures registered in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage of Ireland in the Drumshanbo area:

Reg. No	Name	Townland
30808001	Drumshanbo Railway Station	CARRICKNABRACK
30808002	Drumshanbo Railway Station	CARRICKNABRACK
30808003	Drumshanbo Railway Station	CARRICKNABRACK
30808004	Saint John's Church (Kiltoghert)	CARRICKNABRACK
30808005	House	CARRICKNABRACK
30808006	House	CARRICKNABRACK

30808007	Conway	DRUMSHANBO
30808009	House	DRUMSHANBO
30808010	House	DRUMSHANBO
30808011	Gallaghers	DRUMSHANBO
30808014	Bank	DRUMSHANBO
30808015	House	DRUMSHANBO
30808016	Bank of Ireland	DRUMSHANBO
30808017	House	DRUMSHANBO
30808018	House	DRUMSHANBO
30808020	House	DRUMSHANBO
30808021	Wesley House	DRUMSHANBO
30808022	Drumshanbo Methodist Church	DRUMSHANBO
30808023	Bridge	CORRYARD, DRUMSHANBO, MONEYNURE
30808024	Drumshanbo Garda Station	DRUMSHANBO
30808025	House	DRUMSHANBO
30808026	Bridge	DRUMSHANBO
30808027	School	CORRYARD
30808028	Saint Patrick's Catholic Church	DRUMSHANBO

5.5 Toponymy

Toponymy is the study of place names (toponyms), their origins, meanings, use, and typology. Place names can provide information on the previous history and heritage of a location. The townland of Drumshanbo is in the Barony of *Liatroim/Leitrim* and the Civil Parish of *Cill Tachúrc/Kiltoghert*. Drumshanbo translates in Irish as *Droim Seanbhó* (genitive: *Dhroim Seanbhó*), meaning 'the ridge of the old cow'.

5.6 Record of Monuments and Places

The following sites are listed on the Record of Monuments and Places in a 1km vicinity of the subject site. The nearest recorded monuments LE023-0280021- Church and LE023-028002- Graveyard are located c. 250m north of the scheme at Chapel Street.

SMR No.	Class	Townland	ITM Easting	ITM Northing
LE023-001----	Redundant record	LOUGH ALLEN	596648	812650
LE023-002----	Redundant record	LOUGH ALLEN	596752	812660
LE023-004----	Ringfort - rath	MAHANAGH (Leitrim By.)	595825	811097
LE023-005----	Redundant record	LOUGH ALLEN	596586	811557
LE023-006----	Ringfort - rath	DERRYHALLAGH	598722	811942
LE023-008----	Ringfort - rath	DRUMDERG (Leitrim By.)	595523	810175
LE023-009----	Ringfort - rath	CARRICKBAUN	598387	810489
LE023-010----	Ringfort - rath	AGHNAGOLLOP	598417	809713
LE023-025----	Crannog	MAHANAGH (Leitrim By.)	596213	812576
LE023-026----	Redundant record	LOUGH ALLEN	596271	811116
LE023-027----	Crannog	LOUGH ALLEN	596610	811368
LE023-028001-	Church	CORLOUGH (Leitrim By., Drumshanbo ED)	597813	811609
LE023-028002-	Graveyard	CORLOUGH (Leitrim By., Drumshanbo ED)	597802	811610

LE023-001----

Class: Redundant record

Townland: LOUGH ALLEN

Description: Indicated as a small island (diam. c. 30m) on the 1835 edition of the OS -6-inch map and as an oval island (dims c. 50m N-S; c. 20m E-W) on the 1907 edition. It is located c. 100m S of the mapped shore of a peninsula on the E shore of Lough Allen. The peninsula creates a triangular bay (dims. c. 1km N-S; c. 700m E-W at N) at the S end of the lake. This is a natural island covered in dense vegetation and now attached to the shore.

LE023-002----

Class: Redundant record

Townland: LOUGH ALLEN

Description: Indicated as a small island (diam. c. 30m) on the 1835 edition of the OS -6-inch map and as a subcircular island (dims c. 50m NE-SW; c. 40m NW-SE) on the 1907 edition. It is located c.

100m S of the mapped shore of a peninsula on the E shore of Lough Allen. The peninsula creates a triangular bay (dims. c. 1km N-S; c. 700m E-W at N) at the S end of the lake. This is a natural island covered in dense vegetation and now attached to the shore.

LE023-004----

Class: Ringfort - rath

Townland: MAHANAGH (Leitrim By.)

Description: Located in an undulating low-lying landscape. This is depicted as a circular embanked enclosure on the 1835 edition of the OS 6-inch map where it is described in gothic lettering as a 'fort'. This is a grass-covered subcircular area (diam. 28.5m NW-SE) defined by a low earthen bank (Wth 2m; H 0.2m) with some bushes NE-E, which is reduced to a scarp (H 0.35m) elsewhere, with an outer band of reeds (Wth 10m). The perimeter has been levelled at S and the spoil added to the interior at N. The interior also contains a long hollow (L 7m; Wth 1.8m; D 0.2m) which may be a collapsed souterrain although no stones are visible.

LE023-005----

Class: Redundant record

Townland: LOUGH ALLEN

Description: Situated in a narrow channel (Wth c. 130m) towards the S end of Lough Allen c. 500m from the point where the River Shannon debouches from Lough Allen. A small island (diam. c. 15-20m) is depicted only on the 1907 edition of the OS 6-inch map and there is a record of the discovery of a possible crannog at Corrachuill on the E shore (NMI file) but the precise location is uncertain. This feature is an oval gravel bank (dims c. 40m N-S; c. 20m E-W; H 1.5m) almost attached to the W shore.

LE023-006----

Class: Ringfort - rath

Townland: DERRYHALLAGH

Description: Situated on top of a small rise in an undulating, low-lying landscape. This is an overgrown circular area (diam. c. 35m) defined by a scarp (H 0.4-0.9m), but there is no evidence of

a fosse or entrance. There are two long hollows in the interior that are probably quarries, one at the centre (L 8m; Wth 4m; D 0.25m) and one in the NE quadrant (L 12m; Wth 3.5m; D 0.35m). The monument is circumscribed by a field and road bank SW-NW.

LE023-008----

Class: Ringfort - rath

Townland: DRUMDERG (Leitrim By.)

Description: Situated on a low NW-SE drumlin ridge. This is an overgrown circular area (diam. c. 30m) defined by an intermittently visible scarp (H 0.25m) and slight evidence of a waterlogged fosse. It remains unplanted in a coniferous forest planted c. 2010 (Bing 2013).

LE023-009----

Class: Ringfort - rath

Townland: CARRICKBAUN

Description: Situated on top of a low drumlin. This is a grass and rush-covered subcircular area (int. dims 38.4m E-W; 34.5m N-S) defined by an overgrown earthen bank (Wth 2m; int. H 0.1-0.25m; ext. H 1.85-2.15m) and an external fosse (Wth of base 2.5m; D 0.35m). There is no identifiable original entrance. It is unplanted within a forest planted c. 2010 (Bing 2013).

LE023-010----

Class: Ringfort - rath

Townland: AGHNAGOLLOP

Description: Situated in a fairly low-lying position with a small NE-SW stream just to the SE. This is a grass-covered circular area (diam. 20.2m E-W; 18.5m N-S) defined by a scarp (H 0.6m at N to 1.05m E-S) with some bushes. There is no visible fosse or identifiable original entrance.

LE023-025----

Class: Crannog

Townland: MAHANAGH (Leitrim By.)

Description: Around 1939 when an ESB sluice was inserted into the Shannon at the point where it leaves Lough Allen at Bellantra Bridge, about 10 neat circular or oval mounds of stone came to light in Derrintober townland (Faughnan 1944, No. 147). About eight possible crannogs were also noted on the Roscommon side, and Holly Island, named only on the 1907 edition of the OS 6-inch map, is described in a pencil notation as a crannog on the NMI set of 1835 OS 6-inch maps. A circular grass and reed-covered area (diam. c. 25m) rises above the water (H 1.5m).

LE023-026----

Class: Redundant record

Townland: LOUGH ALLEN

Description: Located at the SW edge of a bay (diam. c. 400m), which is at the southern extremity of Lough Allen and now incorporated into the shallows at the edge of the bay. This location is described as a 'crannog' in a pencil notation on the National Museum of Ireland copy of the 1835 edition OS 6-inch map. There is no evidence of a crannog here.

LE023-027----

Class: Crannog

Townland: LOUGH ALLEN

Description: Located close to the NE Corrachuill shore of a bay (diam. c. 400m E-W) at the southern extremity of Lough Allen. An artificial oval earth and stone island (dims 15m E-W; 9m N-S; H 0.35m) has horizontally laid timbers on the surface in the SE quadrant and is defined on the N side by a series of upright timber stakes (diam. 0.1m) placed c. 0.5m apart that expands to five rows at the NW edge. The perimeter at the S and W is marked by fallen timber uprights radiating outwards. The remains of a hearth was at the centre and highest point. A squared oak beam (dims 17-21cm x 14cm; L 4.4m) with a shallow mortice (dims 0.3m x 0.15m; D 4cm) and 10 dowel-holes on one side, together with three quernstones were found on it during a period of low water in 1991 when it was connected to the shore, but it is normally under water.

LE023-028001-

Class: Church

Townland: CORLOUGH (Leitrim By., Drumshanbo ED)

Description: Situated in a low-lying position in an undulating landscape and on the N bank of a small NE-SW stream. This is the site of what was probably the first post-Penal Roman Catholic church of Drumshanbo, although it is about 700m outside the village and close to the S end of what was the main road to Dowra and is now the green road known as the Leitrim Way. The church is depicted as T-shaped (L c. 30m NE-SW) with a wing extending NW (L c. 10m) from its centre on the 1835 edition of the OS 6-inch map. No physical evidence of it survives in an L-shaped graveyard (dims c. 80m NE-SW; c. 40m NW-SE) defined by masonry walls, which is no longer used for burial. Two holy-water stoups from the church are incorporated into the graveyard wall by the roadside at the NE end.

LE023-028002-

Class: Graveyard

Townland: CORLOUGH (Leitrim By., Drumshanbo ED)

Description: Situated in a low-lying position in an undulating landscape and on the N bank of a small NE-SW stream. The site of what was probably the first post-Penal Roman Catholic church of Drumshanbo (LE023-0280001-) is within an L-shaped graveyard (dims c. 80m NE-SW; c. 40m NW-SE) defined by masonry walls, which is no longer used for burial. Two holy-water stoups from the church are incorporated into the graveyard wall by the roadside at the NE end.

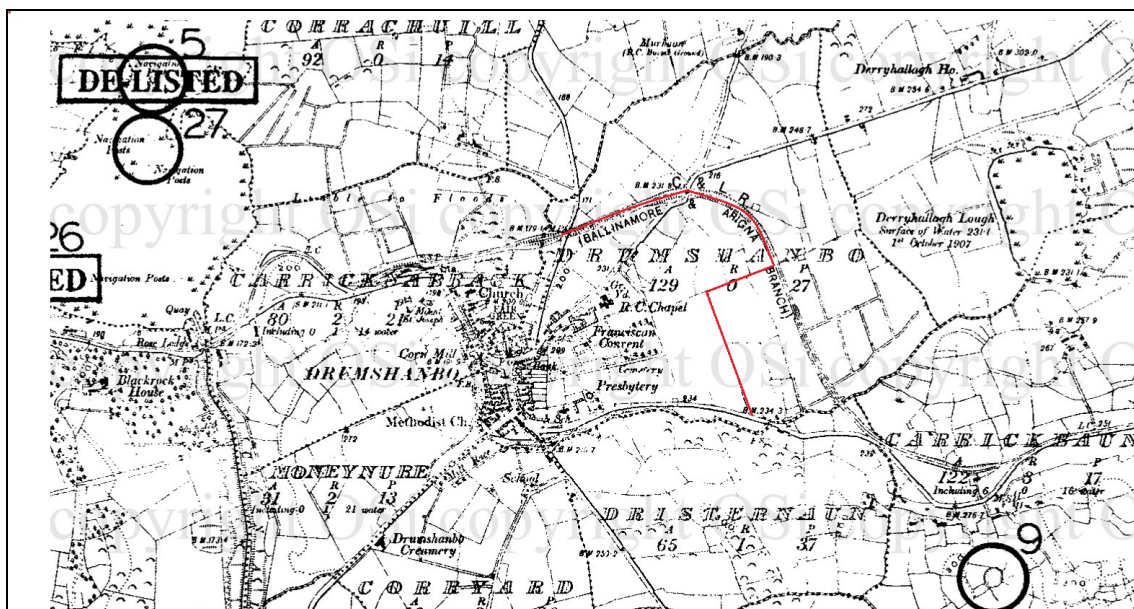


Figure 6: Record of Monument and Place Map 023 of Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim.

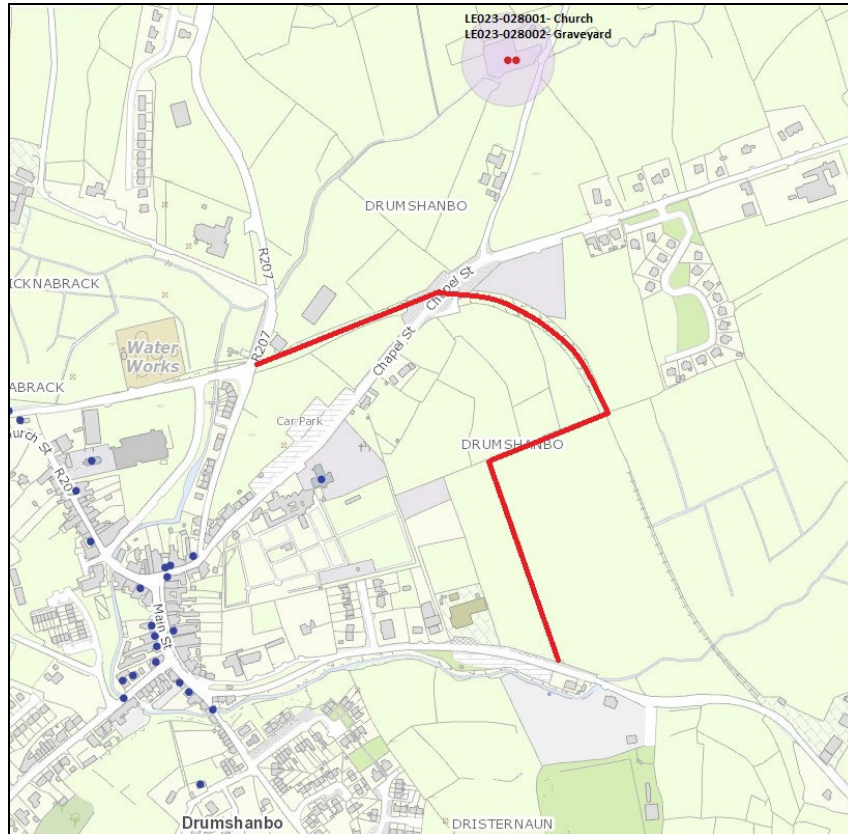


Figure 7: Archaeological Survey of Ireland of the proposed trail, showing the proximity to the nearest monuments.

5.7 The National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files

The topographical survey for the townland of Drumshanbo was consulted up to the year 2010 on www.heritagemaps.ie and it produced the following results for the subject area:

Name: 1945:183

National Museum Area: Not available

Object Type: Base of Medieval Pottery Vessel

Distance to the PDA: 1600m west

Name: 1945:185

National Museum Point: Not available

Object Type: Not available

Distance to the PDA: 1400m west

5.8 Aerial Photography

Aerial photography of the development area was consulted. The main source used was Ordnance Survey of Ireland website www.geohive.ie which clearly showed an aerial view of the area in which the scheme will be developed in the townland of Drumshanbo. The aerial photograph clearly shows the scheme area, the existing railway, and the location of the proposed trail. An examination of the area in which the proposed trail along the existing railway and through the fields revealed no additional archaeological features in the aerial photography of this area.



Figure 8: Aerial photograph of the Proposed Development Site.

5.9 Cartographic Evidence

The following section considers major maps of Co. Leitrim with reference to the townland and village of Drumshanbo including the subject site.

5.9.1 McParlan's Statistical Survey of the County Leitrim 1802

James McParlan's Statistical Survey of the County Leitrim was published in 1802 on behalf of the Dublin Society. It is one of a series of statistic surveys of the counties of Ireland just after the turn of the 19th century which examined its agriculture, economy, and society. The survey was accompanied by a map entitled 'Sketch of the County of Leitrim'. An examination of this map shows Lough Allen, west of Sliabh an Iarainn mountain which is also indicated on the map. The village of Drumshanbo appears on the map as a small cluster of buildings lining the road.



Figure 9: McParlan's Map of Co. Leitrim 1802.

5.9.2 Ordnance Survey 1837 edition (6" map)

The area in which the proposed recreational trail is located on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of County Leitrim, dated to the 1830's. The area in which the trail is proposed can be seen as road and small fields on the edge of marginal land, east of the village centre.

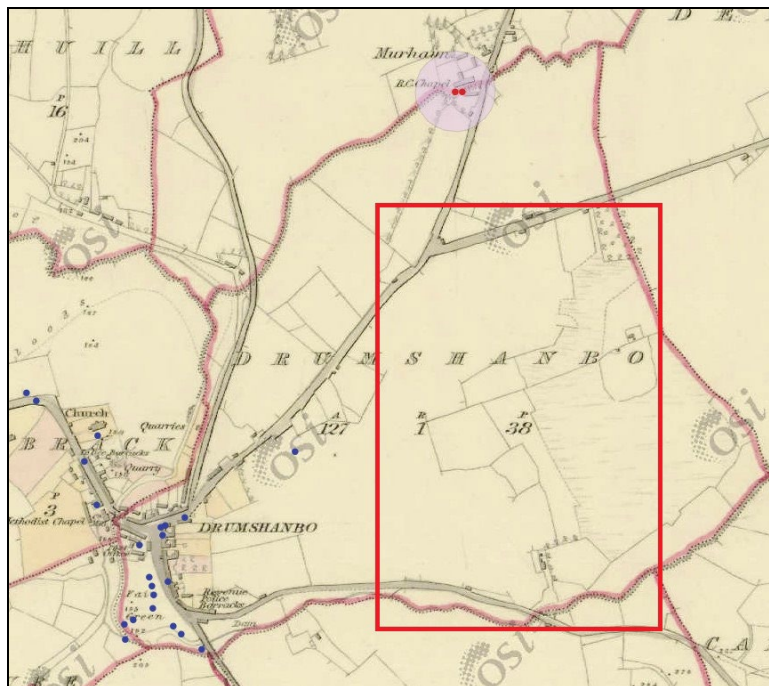


Figure 10: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1837 of the PDA.

5.9.3 Ordnance Survey c. 1910 edition (25" map)

The proposed development area can also be clearly seen on the second edition Ordnance Survey map dated to c. 1900. The subject site and the surrounding area have undergone change since the 1st Edition OS Map of the 1830s, included in this edition of the map is the railway. Indicated as 'Ballinamore & Arigna Branch' the railway occupies a curving track in a steep sided dyke. Additional to this map is the Franciscan Convent, R. C. Chapel and Graveyard, to the west of the fields in which the trail is proposed to be located following parallel with the existing field boundaries. No features of an archaeological nature were noted along the route of the proposed the trail on any edition of the OS maps.

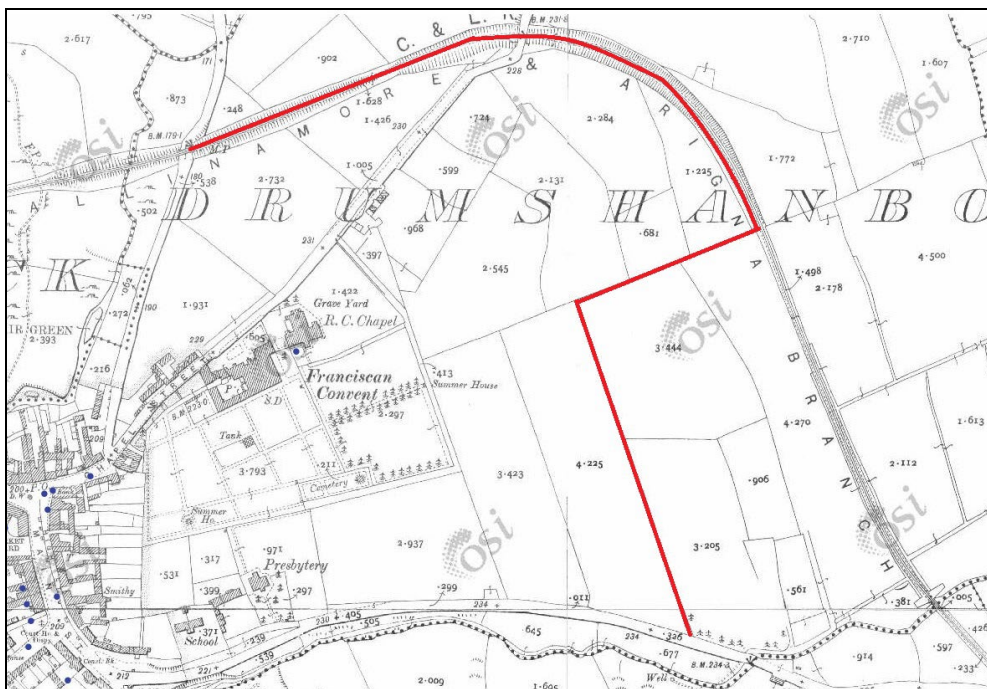


Figure 11: Ordnance Survey Map 1910 of Drumshanbo showing the proposed trail.

6 RESULTS OF THE SITE INSPECTION

The site inspection took place on Thursday the 18th of May 2023. The site conditions were good during the inspection. The area where the railway line is located was too overgrown with mature vegetation to access the railway fully and the areas of the trail proposed for the greenfield area were fully accessible to conduct a full site walkover. The entire existing trail encompasses approximately 1km of proposed trail, which follows an existing railway line that curves from west to east and then following the field boundaries the trail traverses through two large south sloping field terminating at the Ballinamore road (R208).

Access to the site is via Chapel Street, northeast of the town centre of Drumshanbo. The trail will commence on the Dowra Road where a controlled pedestrian crossing is proposed to allow safe crossing of the R207 and then extend along the route of the disused railway line to the Chapel Street. It will then cross the Chapel Street at an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing and continue along the disused railway line for approx. 680m. It will then turn off the disused railway line along a field boundary and connect with the Ballinamore road (R208) adjacent to the National School.

Access to the western area of the trail was provided by walking along the existing railway bank, east of the R207 and south of Mulvey's Hardware. The vegetation becomes dense as the trail extends eastwards becoming impassable until the trail meets Chapel Street next to the new Drumshanbo cemetery. In this area there is a railway bridge and landscaped area, the railway again become impassable with vegetation and is steep sided and could not be accessed.

The proposed trail leaves the railway line and will follow along an east-west field boundary within a large expansive field (Field 1) in use as grazing. The proposed trail will slope steeply following the natural contour of the field. In the area where the railway and the field interact there it is considerably wet and low-lying. Low-lying wet areas are suitable settings for the occurrence of wetland archaeological sites, in particular *Fulacht Fiadh* or Burnt Mounds. The trail extends westwards to the second field (Field 2), in this field the trail is proposed to be located along the north-south orientated field boundary. The trail will follow the sloping contours of the field, sloping from north to south downhill towards the R208 Ballinamore road.

No material of an archaeological nature was noted in the footprint of the existing railway line where it was accessible for the site walkover. Neither was any archaeological material identified within the two fields, however there is potential for archaeology in the wet area in the north-eastern corner of Field 1.

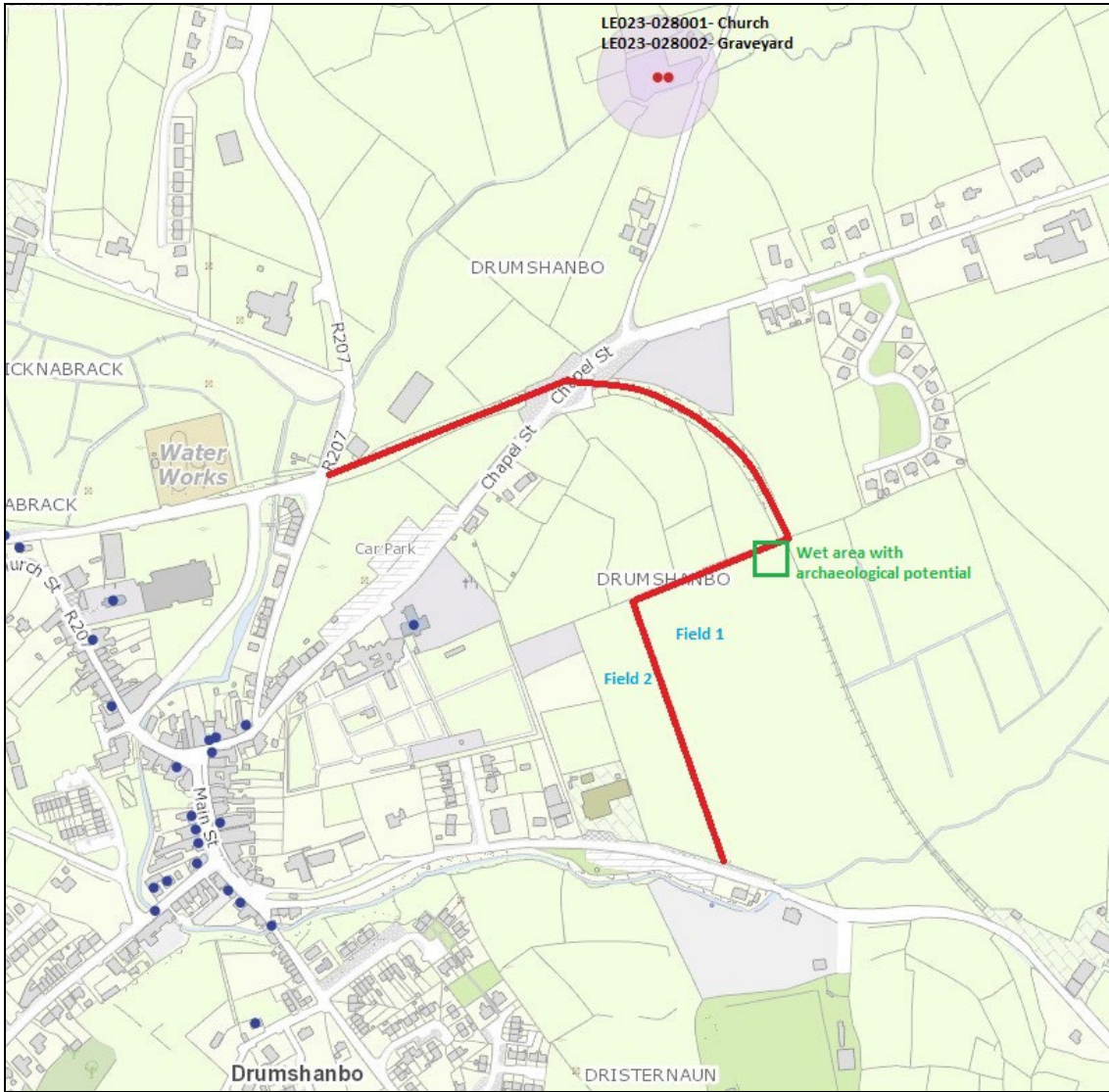


Figure 12: Archaeological Survey of Ireland map showing location of the proposed trail, Fields 1 & 2 and area of archaeological potential (source: archaeology.ie).



Plate 1: NE facing view of the trail entrance at the Dowra Road.



Plate 2: NE facing view of the railway at the Dowra Road.



Plate 3: SW facing view of the railway from the junction with Chapel Street.



Plate 4: SW facing view of the railway bridge at Chapel Street.



Plate 5: SW facing view of the overgrown railway line adjacent to the new Drumshanbo cemetery.



Plate 6: West facing view of the overgrown railway line adjacent to the new Drumshanbo cemetery.



Plate 7: West facing view of Field 1.



Plate 8: North facing view of the wet area at the junction between Field 1 and the railway.



Plate 9: East facing view of the sloping topography of Field 1.



Plate 10: North facing view of the access to Field 2 from the Ballinamore Road.



Plate 11: North facing view of Field 2.



Plate 12: South facing view of Field 2 overlooking the Ballinamore Road.

7 CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

The development will have no direct or negative impact on any known recorded archaeological sites or monuments in the vicinity of the proposed new trail in the greenfield areas or within the existing railway line. There will be no visual impact on the recorded archaeological sites or monuments in the vicinity of the proposed recreational trail.

The proposed enhancement of the existing railway will have no negative effect on any archaeological remains. Therefore, no archaeological mitigation is required for the works in this section. Due to the location of the remainder of the scheme in greenfield areas largely untouched previously, there may be increased possibility of the uncovering of subsurface archaeological remains particularly in the low-lying area of Field 1. Therefore, it is recommended that where the new trail is proposed within Field 1, that the works should be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring during construction, where groundworks involve removal of topsoil or subsurface works such as drainage.

In summary the recommendations are as follows:

- 1) Proposed location of the sections of trail within the footprint of the existing railway should not be subject to any archaeological mitigation.
- 2) Proposed location of the trail within the greenfield areas, particularly Field 1, should be subject to a programme of monitoring of topsoil removal and all groundworks involving subsurface work due to the possibility of archaeological material being present.

The recommended programme of 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, with provision being made for full recording, preservation *in situ* or 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.

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