

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
FOR A PROPOSED FOOTPATH & ASSOCIATED  
WORKS**

**AT JAMESTOWN, CO. LEITRIM**

**ON BEHALF OF**

**LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL**



**Fadó  
Archaeology**

**Planning: Part 8**

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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.

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## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

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This report describes the results of a site inspection and desktop assessment carried out by Fadó Archaeology at Jamestown, Co. Leitrim on behalf of Leitrim County Council.

The following archaeological assessment report documents the project, the existing environment, and the results of the site inspection. The proposed development works entail the development of a footpath from the junction of L3656 and L3657 near Jamestown Village, westbound for 460m with associated public lighting and ramped uncontrolled crossing and all necessary ancillary works.

The proposed development is within the zone of archaeological notification of recorded monument RMP LE031-109-Enclosure and close to RMP LE031-082---Historic Town and RMP LE031-082008-Bridge.

Archaeological testing took place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2022 on foot of a request from Co. Leitrim Planning Department for an archaeological screening report. During the site walkover no features or finds of archaeological significance were noted.

There is a possibility of subsurface archaeological remains surviving in the location of the proposed footpath and associated works. These works could impact negatively on archaeological artefacts,

features, or deposits. It is therefore recommended that any groundworks that involve topsoil removal including subsurface works in previously undisturbed areas should be subject to archaeological monitoring during construction phase.

The tree lined boundary adjacent to recorded monument RMP LE031-109- Enclosure and the Northeast field bounded by the extant stone wall, are areas of increased chance of encountering archaeological material therefore it is essential that this area be subject to archaeological monitoring. It is recommended that periodic monitoring of the remaining sections of the proposed footpath take place.

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 with provision being made for full recording and excavation of any archaeological features or deposits which may be exposed.

# 1 SCOPE OF WORKS

## 1.1 Introduction

Fadó Archaeology were commissioned to carry out an archaeological impact assessment at Jamestown, Co. Leitrim on behalf of Leitrim County Council. The following report documents the project, the existing environment at the site and describes the results of the site walk over and the impact of the proposed development on the archaeology in the vicinity.

## 1.2 Purpose of the Project

The proposed development works entail the development of a footpath from the junction of L3656 and L3657 near Jamestown Village, westbound for 460m, with associated public lighting and ramped uncontrolled crossing and all necessary ancillary works

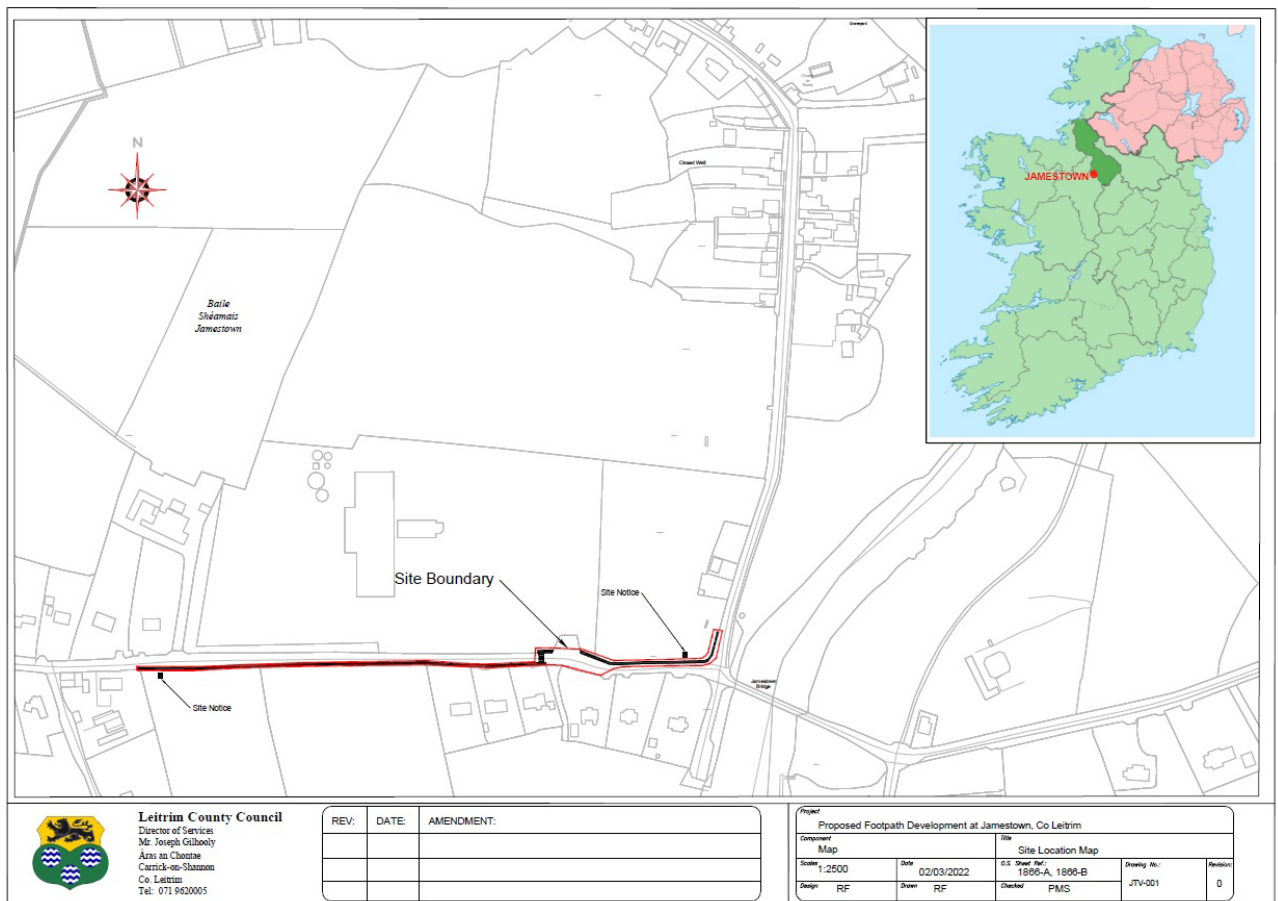


Figure 1: Proposed Development Plan Jamestown Co. Leitrim

### 1.3 Planning Conditions

The proposed development is within the vicinity of the zone of archaeological notification of recorded monument RMP LE031-109- Enclosure and close to RMP LE031-082---- Historic Town and RMP LE031-082008- Bridge. Leitrim County Council Planning Section have confirmed that Part 8 Planning is required for the footpath due to its length in an Urban area. Planning section have requested that a Desk Top Archeological Assessment Report should be completed and submitted with the Planning documentation for the scheme.

### 1.4 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.

### 1.5 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, 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.

### **Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021**

The Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021 was consulted. It contained 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 031 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 the majority of 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 Balinamore. 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 2022. 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](http://www.archaeology.ie).

## 2 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT

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### 2.1 Site locational details

The proposed development is in Jamestown townland to the southwest of the historic town of Jamestown in Co. Leitrim. Access to the site is directly from the road that links Jamestown village to the neighbouring hinterlands and to the N4. The development area is in the existing road as well as along the boundaries of the farmland to the northeast and south, and to the foreground of the residential properties that line the road to the south.

Study area	OS Sheet numbers	NGR	Townland
Leitrim	031	597870/797161	Jamestown



**Figure 2: Location Map of Co. Leitrim showing location of the Proposed Development Area at Jamestown townland**

## 2.2 Description of the Site

Access to the site is provided directly east of the L3656 road through Jamestown village. The proposed development area is in existing road as well as in the adjacent farmlands to the northeast and south. The eastern area of the proposed footpath is located a short distance west of the banks of the River Shannon. The proposed development area is flat to undulating. The site is bound by tree lined ditch to the south. To the northeast is a stone wall which divides the site from the neighbouring field and the existing road.

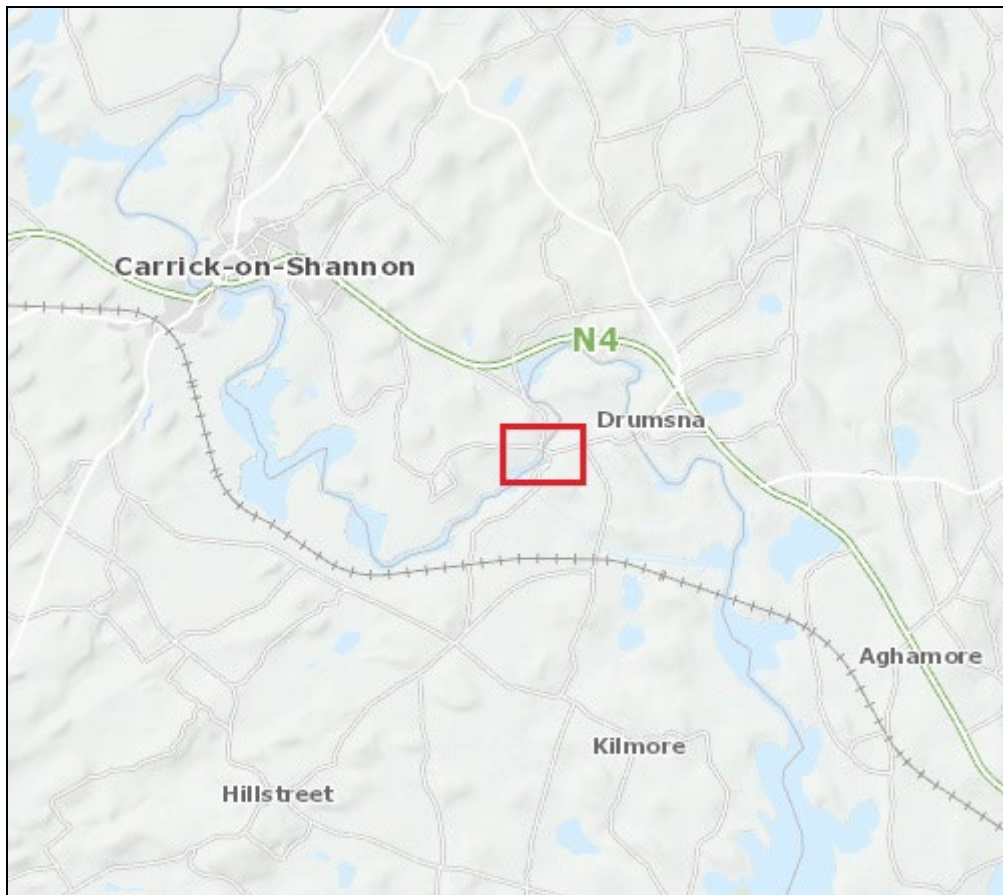


Figure 2: OSI Geohive Map of Jamestown and the proposed development area

## 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

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### 3.1 Solid Geology and Soil Type

The geology of the region consists of broad physiographic Drumlin division. The principal soil in the area is made up of 85% Gleys, with associated soils 15% interdrumlin peat and peaty gleys. The substrate type in the vicinity of the subject site is predominantly Upper Carboniferous limestone and shale, under a sandstone glacial till.

### 3.2 Landscape

The proposed development site is located in Jamestown townland along the western bank of the River Shannon that divides Co. Roscommon and Co. Leitrim; and southeast of Carrick-on-Shannon, the principal town of Co. Leitrim. The landscape character in this part of Leitrim is 'South Leitrim

Drumlins and Shannon Basin'. The area is situated along in the small walled town of Jamestown in a predominantly residential area but close to rolling pastoral land presently used for grazing livestock.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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Desk based archaeological and historical research was undertaken of the subject site. It comprised of a paper study of all available archaeological, historical, and cartographic sources.

### 4.1 Mesolithic:

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.

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

### 4.2 Neolithic:

This period of time 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 Corraclona Court Tomb, commonly called Prince Connell's Grave. A pair of well-preserved court tombs can be found at Tullysheherny close to Manorhamilton.

### 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 fulacht 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 found 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 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. 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 extend 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 Jamestown

Jamestown historic village is situated on a strategic fording point of the River Shannon. Jamestown was named for King James I of England and was founded by Sir Charles Coote in 1625. The town was significant enough to receive a Royal Charter from James I. It was walled and fortified to protect the planters who came there to settle from England and Scotland those from whom the land had been confiscated. The northern gate is still standing and is the most visual remainder of the fortified town walls. The arch was built over the north gate by Hugh O'Beirne who lived in Jamestown House. Hugh played a big part in fight for Catholic Emancipation during the latter part of the 18th century and is regarded as a local hero. The top of the arch was damaged by a lorry in the 1970s and removed for safety reasons, leaving the two pillars we see today. Close by is the ruin of a Franciscan friary of the convent of the Friars' Minor. The Franciscan friary of the Friars Minor was not founded until the occupation of Jamestown in 1642 by the O'Rourke Clan. A synod held here in 1650 repudiated the 1st Marquess of Ormonde, the former Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and excommunicated his followers.

# 5 DESKTOP DATA

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## 5.1 National Monuments

No national monuments listed in state care located in the immediate vicinity of the subject site.



## 5.2 Previous Archaeological Work

A search of the database [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie) indicated that several archaeological investigations have been carried out in the townland of Jamestown and environs:

1994:148 - Drumsna-Jamestown, Leitrim

County: Leitrim Site name: Drumsna-Jamestown

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 31:69, 32:54 Licence number: 94E0051

Author: Hilary Opie, 16 Ormond Sq., Dublin 7, for Valerie Keeley-Schmidt.

Site type: Various sites (centred on Drumsna)

ITM: E 600051m, N 797013m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.922480, -7.999220

Trial trenching was carried out at five possible sites along the proposed Drumsna-Jamestown bypass scheme over a three-week period between April 18 and May 6, 1994.1. Annaduff, Possible monastic remains SMR 32:54 Two churches survive to the south of the roadtake; a modern Church of Ireland building c. 45m south of the roadtake and an older 16th/17th-century church c. 100m to the south. This is presumed to be on the site of the ancient abbey of Annaduff referred to in the Annals of the Four Masters. It is possible the extent of the old monastery may have extended into the area of the roadtake. In addition, a number of low earthworks were noted in the field to the north-west of the older church.

Six trial trenches were dug along the roadtake. Charcoal flecks, a lens of burning and a clay pipe bowl were observed but no finds or features of archaeological importance were uncovered.2. Drumsna Enclosure / ringfort SMR 31:69 Clear surface remains of a ringfort, c. 35m in diameter, are visible in the field to the west of the roadtake. The bank and any possible ditch would have been clear of the disturbance corridor by c. 5-10m. A well is located to the east of the ringfort, also outside the take.

Five trial trenches were dug inside the roadtake to check for any outlying associated activity with the ringfort. No archaeological finds or features were recovered from any of the trenches. In particular there was no sign of an outlying ditch.3. Kildorragh Possible settlement platform Surface remains of a roughly circular raised area, c. 32m in diameter, were visible, lying on the shores of the River Shannon and within the roadtake.

Eleven trenches were dug on the raised area itself and on the lower lying area surrounding it. None of these produced any finds or features of archaeological importance and it would appear that this raised mound is a naturally occurring feature and not a man-made, archaeological feature.<sup>4</sup> Kiltycarney Possible enclosure This site was represented by a curved field boundary within the roadtake, suggesting a possible enclosure. However, there were no surface remains surviving upon investigation; the field boundaries and associated buildings had already been removed by machine.

Eight trenches were dug with evidence of the curving field boundary being picked up in three of them. However, modern pottery, drainpipe fragments and barbed wire were found near the base of the ditch suggesting this was of recent date and not part of an older enclosure.<sup>5</sup> Tully Settlement platform Surface remains of a circular settlement platform, c. 20 x 25m in diameter, are visible outside of the roadtake. It lies on the shores of the River Shannon approx. 9m to the south of the disturbance corridor.

Five trenches were dug to the north of the site – within the disturbance corridor – to check for any associated archaeological activity. Evidence of a French drain was found in Trench 5 while a recently cut council drain produced evidence of a previously cut box drain and French drain within it. These do not appear to be associated with the settlement platform to the south. Modern pottery, glass and clay pipe were observed but no archaeological finds or features directly associated with the settlement platform were observed.

1996:228 - Jamestown, Leitrim County: Leitrim Site name: Jamestown

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 31:82 Licence number: 96E0216

Author: Gerry Walsh, Rathbawn Rd, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

Site type: Zone of archaeological potential

ITM: E 597458m, N 797340m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.925411, -8.038705

The proposed development is within the zone of archaeological potential for Jamestown. It is located within a stable yard associated with and to the north of Jamestown House. Some of the stables are in a very poor state of preservation. Stable A and the open-sided stable between it and the storage house B to the east of the proposed development were to be partly demolished to accommodate the proposed slatted house; however, following consultation, the proposed slatted house is to be reduced in size and none of the stables will be demolished. The entire development will measure 14.4m east-west x 8.6m north-south.

The western side of the proposed development will be located outside and 3.9m from the outer face of the town wall. Two trial-trenches (T1 and T2) were excavated with a mechanical excavator inside the area of the proposed development. No remains of the town wall exist above present ground level in the vicinity of the proposed slatted house.

T1 was 14.4m long east-west and 3m wide. Overlying the natural orange/light brown daub was a rubble layer up to 0.17m thick. This layer contained small stones, brick, some sherds of nineteenth-century pottery and mortar. Lying directly on the rubble layer was a layer of limestone cobbles. The cobbles were covered in parts with a thin layer of topsoil 0.04m thick. Although T1 was located 3.9m from the outer face of the town wall, no evidence for an external town ditch was uncovered in it.

T2 was located at right angles to T1. It measured 4.4m long north-south and was 2m wide. The stratigraphy within T2 was similar to that in T1.

Except for the cobbled yard and underlying rubble layer, which probably dates from the late eighteenth/nineteenth centuries, no archaeological features or finds were recovered from either of the two trial-trenches. Therefore, the proposed development will have no impact on the archaeology of the site.

1997:319 - JAMESTOWN, Leitrim

County: Leitrim Site name: JAMESTOWN

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 97E0306

Author: Frank Ryan, 28 Cabinteely Way, Dublin 18.

Site type: No archaeological significance

ITM: E 597458m, N 797340m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.925411, -8.038705

Test-trenching was carried out on 28 August 1997 to comply with a condition of planning permission. The development site is located outside the north wall of the medieval town and is close to a graveyard which contains a disused church. A 62m-long trench was dug around the perimeter of the house and a 22m-long trench was dug from the house to the septic tank and percolation areas. A shallow layer of topsoil overlay the limestone bedrock in the area of the house, while at the septic tank location a 0.3m-deep layer of topsoil overlay undisturbed brown soil and

subsoil above the bedrock, which was at a depth of 1.3m. The trenches contained no archaeological features.

2000:0566 - MAIN STREET, JAMESTOWN, Leitrim

County: Leitrim Site name: MAIN STREET, JAMESTOWN

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 31:82 Licence number: 00E0269

Author: Frank Ryan, 28 Cabinteely Way, Dublin 18

Site type: No archaeological significance

ITM: E 593837m, N 799670m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.946319, -8.093887

The site is located within the medieval town walls of Jamestown and fronts onto the east side of Main Street, 35–50m from the north gateway. Test-trenching prior to development for a house and services produced no evidence of archaeology.

2000:0567 - MAIN STREET, JAMESTOWN, Leitrim

County: Leitrim Site name: MAIN STREET, JAMESTOWN

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 31:82 Licence number: 00E0554

Author: Frank Ryan, 28 Cabinteely Way, Dublin 18.

Site type: Urban

ITM: E 593837m, N 799670m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.946319, -8.093887

Test-trenching prior to the building of a house produced no evidence of archaeological layers. However, topsoil from service test-pits included a few fragments of post-medieval pottery and animal bone.

2001:735 - Jamestown, Leitrim

County: Leitrim Site name: Jamestown

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 01E1191

Author: Frank Ryan, 28 Cabinteely Way, Cabinteely, Dublin 18.

Site type: Town wall

ITM: E 597458m, N 797340m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.925411, -8.038705

The base of the town wall was found at the western boundary of the site during pre-development testing. No other features of archaeological interest were located.

2004:0958 - JAMESTOWN, Leitrim

County: Leitrim Site name: JAMESTOWN

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 31:82 Licence number: 04E1549

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

Site type: No archaeological significance

ITM: E 597458m, N 797340m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.925411, -8.038705

The proposed development is an extension to a house facing onto the east side of the north-south oriented street within Jamestown. It is located within the zone of archaeological potential for the walled post-medieval town of Jamestown, the northern wall of which is situated immediately south of the proposed development site. Monitoring was carried out in November 2004. No evidence of any archaeological features or materials was uncovered during the course of the excavation.

2005:937 - JAMESTOWN, Leitrim

County: Leitrim Site name: JAMESTOWN

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 31:82 Licence number: 05E0593

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

Site type: No archaeological significance

ITM: E 597458m, N 797340m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.925411, -8.038705

The site of the proposed development is located immediately outside of the walled plantation town of Jamestown, Co. Leitrim. It is to consist of fifteen two-storey houses, access, services and landscaping. Test excavation was carried out in June 2005. Eleven trenches were excavated across the site. All were 1.8m wide and were excavated to a depth of between 0.35 and 0.5m. Six of the trenches were 80m long, three were 70m long and the remaining two were 50m long. No evidence of archaeological activity was revealed on the site.

2005:938 - MAIN STREET, JAMESTOWN, Leitrim

County: Leitrim Site name: MAIN STREET, JAMESTOWN

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 31:82 Licence number: 05E0389

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

Site type: Urban

ITM: E 593837m, N 799670m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.946319, -8.093887

Testing was undertaken at Main Street, Jamestown, as part of granted planning permission to build an extension to a dwelling house. The development site was within the confines of the walled town of Jamestown. Two test-trenches were opened on the site. There was extensive disturbance in both trenches, including services extending along both openings. No archaeological remains were uncovered in the course of testing works.

2006:AD16 - Jamestown and Tully, Leitrim

County: Leitrim Site name: Jamestown and Tully

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 06E1101

Author: Dominic Delany, Dominic Delany & Associates, Unit 3, Howley Court, Oranmore, Co. Galway.

Site type: No archaeological significance

ITM: E 598067m, N 797498m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.926831, -8.029431

Pre-development testing, comprising the excavation of six trenches, was carried out in the vicinity of LE031–076 (enclosure) and LE031–097 (ringfort), located to the north of the village of Jamestown, Co. Leitrim, in December 2007.

Trench 1 was opened east–west along the centreline of a section of wayleave to the south of the enclosure. It was 34m long and 2.8m wide. The topsoil had an average thickness of 0.3m and generally overlay yellow/brown sandy clay subsoil with moderate inclusions of stone. The topsoil cover was just 0.1m in thickness where it directly overlay bedrock at the west end of the trench. A modern field drainage ditch, 2.4m wide and 0.8m deep, was uncovered at the east end of the trench. Trenches 2–5 ran perpendicular to the centreline trench and revealed a similar stratigraphic sequence to that recorded in Trench 1.

Trench 6 ran downslope across a narrow strip of land between the public road and the River Shannon to the south of the ringfort. The trench was oriented east–west and measured 16.5m long and 1.4m wide. The depth of topsoil cover was greatest close to the riverbank, where it was 0.55m deep. The topsoil overlay sandy clay and gravel with frequent stone inclusions. A typical assemblage of post-medieval and early modern finds (pottery, clay pipes, metal objects and brick) were recovered during testing, particularly from Trench 6. No archaeological material was uncovered.

2007:1084 - Jamestown, Leitrim

County: Leitrim Site name: Jamestown

Sites and Monuments Record No.: LE031–082 Licence number: C177; E2895

Author: Dominic Delany, Dominic Delany & Associates, Unit 3, Howley Court, Oranmore, Co. Galway.

Site type: Post-medieval, urban

ITM: E 598068m, N 797541m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.927217, -8.029416

Pre-development testing was carried out along the line of a proposed sewerage pipeline at Jamestown, Co. Leitrim, on 8–11 January 2007. Jamestown was founded as a Plantation town in 1622. A substantial portion of the North Gate and fragments of the town wall survive. Testing comprised the excavation of five trenches along Main Street. The trenches were c. 4m long and 1m wide.

Testing revealed road construction layers and redeposits to an average depth of 0.35m. This modern material overlay a slightly organic silt deposit, which contained inclusions typical of what one might expect to find in an urban context (oyster shells, flecks of charcoal and pieces of brick, mortar and slag). Finds included occasional animal bone, post-medieval potsherds, clay-pipe stems and glass fragments, firmly dating the deposit to the 17th/18th century. At the south end of the town the silt deposit overlay a fine cobbled surface, interpreted as part of a post-medieval road. This surface was not present in the other trenches and its existence in the southern part of the town only may be explained by the fact that the ground is likely to have been much wetter in this area on account of its proximity to the River Shannon and its location on the lower slope of a prominent ridge, which runs north–south in the field immediately to the west of the modern road. A trench was subsequently opened on the opposite side of the road to determine the possible extent of the cobbled surface. There was no trace of the surface but there was evidence that the ground had been built up considerably in the post-medieval period. This made ground incorporated a rough stone surface, which may have served as a drainage channel running alongside the old cobbled road. A pit, 1.3m in diameter and 0.6m deep, was uncovered during subsequent monitoring of pipeline excavations on Main Street. Finds from the pit included several pieces of worked wood and a leather shoe, all in a good state of preservation. Some of the wood was tentatively identified as possible boat timbers.

2020:236 - Jamestown, Leitrim

County: Leitrim Site name: Jamestown

Sites and Monuments Record No.: LE031-082---- Historic Town Licence number: 20E0276

Author: Tamlyn McHugh

Site type: No archaeology found

ITM: E 598106m, N 797382m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.925789, -8.028837

The proposed development of a dwelling house was partially within the zone of archaeological notification of LE031-082— Historic Town of Jamestown, Co. Leitrim.

A programme of pre-development test trenching works was undertaken within the site. Seven trenches were mechanically excavated using a graded bucket 1.5m wide in the footprint of the proposed house, driveway to the rear and front, and the access road. Parallel trenches were excavated at 5m intervals across the area of the proposed house and adjacent driveways. Further



trenches were placed in the proposed front access road and along the southern boundary of the site at the closest point to the site of Jamestown House. The total area excavated comprised 138.66m of trench.

No archaeological material was identified within the proposed development area during the testing trenching.

### 5.3 County Development Plan

The County Development Plan 2015-2021 was consulted for the townland of Jamestown. There were several listings in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) for the townland. The proposed development site is located in an area zoned as primarily residential.

RPS No	Description	Townland
30814002	Weir – 4 bay sluice bridge	Jamestown
30814006	Jamestown Arch – North Gate	Jamestown
30814003	Former Workhouse	Jamestown
30814011	2 Storey L shaped plan house	Jamestown
30800505	West Town Wall	Jamestown
30814015	Jamestown Lodge	Jamestown
30814012	Stable Block – The Coach House	Jamestown
30814009	Inkwell – The Coach House	Jamestown

### 5.4 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage of Ireland

A search of the database [www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie) revealed several buildings registered in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage of Ireland in the townland of Jamestown.

Jamestown House, JAMESTOWN, Jamestown, County Leitrim

Reg No.: 30814013

Rating: Regional

Categories of Special Interest: Architectural Historical

Original Use: Country house

In Use As: House

Date: 1760 - 1800

Coordinates: 198166, 297405

#### Description

Detached four-bay two-storey house, built c.1780 and extensively remodelled c.1930. Hipped slate roof with ridge tiles, cast-iron rainwater goods and rendered chimneystack. Roughcast render to walls. Entrance porch with glazed timber door attached to east end of facade. Single and double timber sash and replacement uPVC windows with stone sills. Cast-iron pump to west wall. Site bounded by random stone wall, rendered piers and cast-iron gates. Piers with cast-iron gates to coach house, erected c.1860.

#### Appraisal

Although this house has been extensively remodelled, it continues to be significant due to its historical association with the O'Beirne family. It is part of a group of former demesne structures, which were built by Hugh O'Beirne, a campaigner for Catholic Relief leading up to the Rebellion of 1798. The adjacent former coach house, outbuildings, lodge, walls and gates add a further dimension to the site and highlight its former importance within the townscape of Jamestown. The cast-iron gates leading to the coach house are of artistic and technical merit. Decorated with anthemion heads, they appear to be unique in the locality.

Jamestown House Outbuildings, JAMESTOWN, Jamestown, County Leitrim

Reg No: 30814012

Rating: Regional

Categories of Special Interest: Architectural

Original Use: Outbuilding

In Use As: House

Date: 1800 - 1840

Coordinates: 198170, 297430

#### Description

Detached six-bay two-storey former coach house, built c.1820, with two-bay pedimented breakfront and half-octagonal rear return. Hipped slate roof with ridge tiles and ashlar chimneystack. Limestone and sandstone roughly dressed random coursed walls with quoins and tooled stone eaves course. Partly blocked-up segmental-arched integral carriage arch openings with cut limestone jambs and brick arches to breakfront and returns. Replacement timber casement windows with brick and cut limestone surrounds and stone sills. Windows inserted into door openings. Cut stone oculus to tympanum. Replacement timber and glazed door to return. Ruinous roughcast rendered outbuildings to north surrounding central yard. Single ashlar gate pier to north.

#### Appraisal

Classically designed, this former coach house is a fine example of nineteenth-century architecture. The well-proportioned building is enhanced by a subtle breakfront, tooled stone dressings and hipped-roofed return to the rear. The derelict outbuildings contribute to the setting and form an interesting group of structures with Jamestown House, which was home to the O'Beirne family.

JAMESTOWN, Jamestown, County Leitrim

Reg No: 30814014

Rating: Regional

Categories of Special Interest: Artistic Social Technical

Original Use: Water pump

In Use As: Water pump

Date: 1850 - 1890

Coordinates: 198109, 297358

#### Description

Cast-iron water pump, erected c.1870, comprising cylindrical shaft with horizontal banding, fluted upper section with cow's tail pumping arm, spout and pointed finial. Enclosed by coursed random limestone wall.

#### Appraisal

Located on the outskirts of Jamestown, this water pump is well maintained and is a socially significant feature in the village. The banding and fluting on the pump add artistic interest to this functional object. Water pumps are technically and socially significant structures as they played a vital role within the community at a time before homes had running water.

JAMESTOWN, Jamestown, LEITRIM

Reg No: 30814015

Rating: Regional

Categories of Special Interest: Architectural, Historical, Technical

Original Use: Gate lodge

Date: 1810 - 1850

Coordinates: 198077, 297182

#### Description

Detached hexagonal-plan former gate lodge to Jamestown House, built c.1830. Now derelict. Hipped slate roof and red brick chimneystack. Roughcast rendered limestone walls. Flat-headed window openings with tooled limestone sills and timber sash and casement windows. Ashlar gate piers with wrought-iron gates to south of gate lodge.

#### Appraisal

Though this former gate lodge is derelict and has lost many of its original features, its unusual hexagonal form is of particular interest. The gate lodge forms a group with the fine entrance gates adjacent and other demesne structures in the former Jamestown House Estate, former home of the O'Beirne family.

## 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 Jamestown is in the Barony of *Liatroim/Leitrim*, in the Civil Parish of *Cill Tachúrc/Kiltoghert*. Jamestown translates in Irish as *Baile Shéamais* (genitive: *Bhaile Shéamais*) meaning 'the town of Seamus or the town of James'. Séamas is personal name referring to King James I of England); 'The earlier designation was Béal Átha Cille Srianáin, or perhaps Baile Cille Srianáin ... Lughaidh Ó Cleirigh understood the name as Trénán. This in fact is the correct form of the name' P. Walsh, *Irish Leaders and Learning 299-300*. (source: [logainm.ie](http://logainm.ie)). Also referred in historical sources as *Cill Trianáin* – *Cill* meaning Church.

## 5.6 Record of Monuments and Places

The following sites are listed on the Record of Monuments and Places in the vicinity of the subject site.

RMP No	Class	Townland	ITM Reference (E)	ITM Reference (N)	Distance to the PDA in metres
LE031-081--- -	Ringfort - rath	Rue	597182	797165	c. 300m
LE031-082--- -	Historic Town	Jamestown	597876	796945	c. 300m
LE031-082001-	Gateway	Jamestown	598068	797580	c. 450m
LE031-082002-	Town Defences	Jamestown	598003	797466	c. 300m
LE031-082003-	Redundant Record	Jamestown	597990	797342	c. 200m
LE031-082004-	Church	Jamestown	598090	797624	c. 480m

LE031-082005-	Bastioned Fort	Jamestown	597836	797552	c. 400m
LE031-082006-	Religious house - Franciscan friars	Jamestown	598109	787495	c. 380m
LE031-082008-	Bridge	Jamestown	598049	797129	c. 30m
LE031-082009-	Graveyard	Jamestown	598112	797645	c. 480m
LE031-109--- -	Enclosure	Jamestown	597759	797116	c. 10m
RO011-058-- --	Linear earthwork	Cloonavery, Drumcleavry, Lackagh, Ardanaffrin	598029	796891	c. 300m

LE031-081----

Class: Ringfort - rath

Townland: RUE

Description: Situated on a slight rise. This is an overgrown circular area (ext. diam. c. 40m) covered with field spoil at the time of inspection in 1991. An earthen bank (Wth 2.4m; H 0.5m) and a slight fosse is visible intermittently around the perimeter at S and W.

LE031-082----

Class: Historic town

Townland: JAMESTOWN

Description: Located in a low-lying position on the W bank of a S-N portion of the River Shannon, and close to a fording point of that river. Although a church called Cill Srianain or Cill Trenain was probably at this location in 1310, the town of Jamestown was established when it was incorporated by charter in 1622. The walls were built by Sir Charles Coote to a specification which required a rectangular circuit of 160 perches around the main street, two main gateways, a postern gate, and four corner-bastions (dims c. 370m N-S; c. 150m E-W) (Kerrigan 1980-81; 1995, 79). A government report of 1622-3 stated that 'a range of 6 or 7 English houses of lime and stone' had already been built and more were under construction. Coote erected a wooden bridge (LE031-082007-) south of the town which was still extant in 1683 (Logan 1971, 327) but this was replaced with a stone bridge

by 1730. The town was besieged, but not captured, by rebels in 1641-2 (Mac an Ghalloglaigh 1965, 448-50), but a Franciscan house was established in the district probably after 1645 (MacNamee 1954, 231), and a meeting of Catholic prelates was held at Jamestown in 1650 (Mooney 1946, 5-8) after it had fallen to Catholic Confederate forces in 1648 (Kelly 2019, 207). The Down Survey barony map (1656-8) depicts the rectangular walled town with houses extending on either side of the road N to Carrick-on-Shannon, and also a second bridge from N of the town to Charlestown, Co. Roscommon. This bridge was never built, and the map is merely a projection as it was intended to found a county town for Co. Roscommon at Charlestown across the river which never came to fruition (Bradley and Dunne 1988, 20). Jamestown had a population of 238 c. 1659 (Pender 1939, 559). The town was captured for King William by Col. Lloyd in 1689 and retaken by Patrick Sarsfield in the same year as it was an important crossing point of the River Shannon (Wauchope 1992, 78-81).

The extent of the town can be gauged from the plots depicted on the 1835 edition of the OS 6-inch map, and the remains of the town wall. It was a rectangular enclosed area (dims c. 275m N-S; c. 110m E-W) with a single N-S street. The surviving remains consist of the North Gate (LE031-082001-), two sections of town wall (LE031-082002-), the church (LE031-082004-) and a star-shaped fort (LE031-082005-) which overlooks the town from a drumlin to the W. The site of the Franciscan house (LE031-082006-) is also within the walls, although its location is less certain. Archaeological testing has so far failed to recover features associated with the early occupation of the town, although the base of the town wall on the west side has been found through excavation (01E1191) in at least one place (Ryan 2002). Archaeological testing (E002895) during 2007 along the main street provided evidence of earlier cobbled surfaces (D 0.35m) overlying an organic layer with fragments of pottery, glass, oyster shells and bricks, flecks of charcoal and bone, dating to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. There was a cobbled road surface and drain at the S end (Delaney 2010). (Butler 1935; Loeber 1982-3; Logan 1971; Bradley and Dunne 1988, 19-31).

LE031-082001-

Class: Gateway

Townland: JAMESTOWN

Description: The town was completely defended by a town wall which had bastions at the four corners and two demi-bastions at the centre of the long E and W walls, as recorded on a map of 1730 by Thomas Moland. The North Gate of Jamestown was destroyed by Patrick Sarsfield in 1689 when he retook the town from Col. Lloyd, but it was rebuilt c. 1780 by Hugh O'Beirne. Its arch was

taken down after it was damaged in 1973. Two in-turned piers survive, creating a passageway (Wth 4.3-5.3m; L 2.8m), together with adjacent parts of the town wall.

LE031-082002-

Class: Town defences

Townland: JAMESTOWN

Description: The town was completely defended by a town wall which had bastions at the four corners and two demi-bastions at the centre of the long E and W walls, as recorded on a map of 1730 by Thomas Moland. A length of town wall survives at the N end of the W side of the town (L 20m; ext. H 1.8-3m) but no distinguishing features are evident. A section of the town wall (L 7m; H 3m; T 1.2m) also survives at the S end of the W side of the town, which has no visible distinguishing features. The line of the wall can be traced as a break in slope to its N (L 23m) and S (L 18m). The North Gate of Jamestown (LE031-082001-) was destroyed by Patrick Sarsfield in 1689 when he retook the town from Col. Lloyd, but it was rebuilt c. 1780 by Hugh O'Beirne. Its arch was taken down after it was damaged in 1973. Two in-turned piers survive, creating a passageway (Wth 4.3-5.3m; L 2.8m), together with adjacent parts of the town wall. The base of the town wall on the W side has been found through excavation (01E1191) in at least one place (Ryan 2002, 2003). (Bradley and Dunne 1988, 23-6).

LE031-082003-

Class: Redundant record

Townland: JAMESTOWN

Description: A section of the town wall at the S end of the W side of the town (L 7m; H 3m; T 1.2m). There are no visible distinguishing features. The line of the wall can be traced as a break in slope to N (L 23m) and S (L 18m).

LE031-082004-

Class: Church

Townland: JAMESTOWN



Description: Situated on a gentle NE-facing slope down to a SE-NW section of the River Shannon which is c. 50m to the NE, and just outside the North gate of Jamestown (LE031-082001-). This is the parish church of Jamestown, which was built in the 17th century and is first mentioned as Kilshreenan in 1683 (Logan 1971, 323). It is within a triangular graveyard (LE031-082009-) defined by masonry walls and is probably on the site of St Triannan's or Srianan's church, which is first mentioned as Ceall Srianáin in 1310 (Ó hInnse 1947). Ceall Srianáin is treated as a parish church in 1477 (Bradley and Dunne 1988, 27), and in 1492 it is recorded that Hubert, the son of Maelruanaigh Mac Rannell, heir to the chieftainship of Conmaicne Rein, and sixteen others were slain and burnt in the church of Cell Srianain by Eoghan, son of Tighernan Mór Ua Ruaric (AU) or by Cathal Oge Mac Rannall and Muintir Carolan (AFM). The seventeenth century church is a rectangular structure (ext. dims 17.2m ENE-WSW; 7.95m NNE-SSW) surviving complete with good walls (T 1m; H c. 4m) and quoins. The W doorway (Wth 1.77m) and the large E window are restored. There is one window embrasure in the N wall and three window embrasures in the S wall, but no dressed stone survives. Archaeological testing (97E0306) c. 60m to the W produced no related material (Ryan 1998).

LE031-082005-

Class: Bastioned fort

Townland: JAMESTOWN

Description: Located on top of a drumlin overlooking Jamestown, which is c. 170m to the E at the nearest point. A fort with a wide view over the countryside and the town would be an essential part of the defences of Jamestown and might have been constructed at the outset in 1620, but the earliest secure reference to a garrison at Jamestown is in 1646 when it had a complement of a hundred men and their officers (Mahaffey 1901, 654). In September 1689 Col. Thomas Lloyd, on a raid from Sligo town, took Jamestown without a fight for King William as defending Jacobite troops had fled overnight. He left a colonel Russell in charge of a token force, which abandoned the town at Sarsfield's approach the next month, but there was no fighting at Jamestown (Wauchope 1992, 76-81).

The fort is a rectangular earthen platform (dims 20m E-W; 17.5m N-S; H 0.6-1m) with slight banks at N (Wth 2.5m; int. H 0.3m; ext. H 0.7m) and S (Wth 4.3m; int. H 0.5m; ext. H 1.2m). There are rectangular bastions (dims of top 9.5-10.5m N-S; 5-7m E-W) offset in two directions at each angle. The bastions are defined by scarps (H 0.6-1.2m), and the fort is surrounded by a slight fosse indicated by lush vegetation forming a rectangular area (max. ext. dims 40m E-W; 36m N-S). The

fort is cut by a N-S field bank towards the W edge, and it is grass-covered W of this feature but is generally overgrown to the E. (Bradley and Dunne 1988, 26-7)

LE031-082006-

Class: Religious house - Franciscan friars

Townland: JAMESTOWN

Description: Located within Jamestown on the floodplain of the River Shannon. A Franciscan friary dedicated to St Mary was established probably after 1645, and a meeting of Catholic bishops was held there in 1650. The Franciscans held a last recorded chapter meeting here in 1658, but the community continued in the area into the 18th century and titular guardians were appointed down to 1860. Seven friars in the area were named in 1714 (MacNamee 1954, 231-4). There is no description of the buildings, and the site is sometimes thought to be the site of the parish church (LE031-82004-) but is more likely to have been at a different location. This is sometimes identified as the old national school as Franciscan lay brothers opened a school there in 1820 adjacent to the Roman Catholic chapel. (Mooney 1946 5-8, 21).

LE031-082008-

Class: Bridge

Townland: JAMESTOWN

Description: Sir Charles Coote had built a wooden bridge (LE031-082007-) connecting Jamestown with Co. Roscommon by 1622-3 which is depicted on the Down Survey (1655-6) map of 1657 and was still extant in 1683. It crossed the River Shannon at the S end of Jamestown, but by 1730 it had been replaced by a stone bridge. The present bridge appears to be a 19th century construction built by the Commission for the improvement of the Shannon Navigation. (Bradley and Dunne 1988b, 22-3).

LE031-082009-

Class: Graveyard

Townland: JAMESTOWN

Description: Situated on a gentle NE-facing slope down to a SE-NW section of the River Shannon which is c. 50m to the NE and just outside the north gate of Jamestown (LE031-082001-). The

parish church of Jamestown (LE031-082004-) is within a triangular graveyard (dims c.80m NE-SW; c. 70m NW-SE at NE) defined by masonry walls with the apex at SW where the only access from a public road is. The headstones are largely nineteenth century in date. Archaeological testing (97E0306) c. 60m to the W produced no related material (Ryan 1998).

LE031-109----

Class: Enclosure

Townland: JAMESTOWN

Description: Located on a gentle S-facing slope with the SW-NE River Shannon c. 150m to the S. It was first identified by S. Curran as part of an M.A. Thesis with University College Dublin using a LiDAR survey dataset commissioned by Leitrim County Council and the NRA. This is a D-shaped grass-covered area (dims 58.6m N-S; c. 58m E-W) defined by an earthen bank (at N: Wth 5.1m; int. H 0.1m; ext. H 0.5m) and outer fosse (at N: Wth of top 7m; Wth of base 2.5m; D 0.1m) NW-NNE and a scarp (H 0.3m SE-SSW, but the perimeter is barely traceable SSW-NW. It is curtailed by a NNW-SSE field bank (L 62m) at E. A NW-SE field bank that is marked on the 1835 ed. of the OS 6-inch map has been removed in the past leaving a scar, and the perimeter is not really traceable W of this feature. There is no identifiable entrance. The bank is not very defensible, and it is possible that the enclosure was a tree-ring.

RO011-058----

Class: Linear earthwork

Townland: CLOONAVERY, DRUMCLEAVRY, LACKAGH, ARDANAFFRIN

Description: Two parallel systems of banks and ditches (L c. 1.6km E-W) cut off a loop of the River Shannon to the N which contains c. 2 km<sup>2</sup>. This is identified as a defensive earthwork of Connaught against its enemies in Ulster (Kane 1915) and part of the extensive linear defences called the Black Pig's Dyke and the Danes Cast demarking the boundaries of Ulster (Kane 1909).

Described as two principal lines of defence, the one to the N consisting of an inner earthen bank (Wth of base c. 30m; H up to 6m) separated by a 'paved causeway' (Wth c. 4-10m) from an outer double bank (Wth c. 3m; H 1m) further N. There are two entrances (Wth c. 16-23m) with inturned horns (L c. 40m) situated c. 80m and c. 650m from the E end. About 60-100m to the S is a second

line of defence surviving only at the E end (L c. 300m) and consisting of two earthen banks (Wth c. 4m; H c. 0.8m) separated by a fosse or 'causeway'.

These works are interpreted as a defensive line of Connaught controlling a number of fords in the loop and W of the loop in Cultyconway (Condit and Buckley 1989). Geophysical survey (Buckley et al. (1990a,b) revealed the possible presence of a central gatepost in the E entrance of the main rampart. Excavation (Buckley and Condit 1991) revealed that the main rampart may have been enlarged, while a calibrated Carbon 14 date of 338-44 BC suggests Iron Age construction (Lanting et al. 1991). Archaeological testing (04E1301) at the W end of the banks in Ardanaffrin failed to produce any related material (Read 2007a, 371, No. 1430). At its W end it meets the River Shannon and c. 370m SW of that point another section of the double-banks (RO011-188----) continue, parallel with the river.

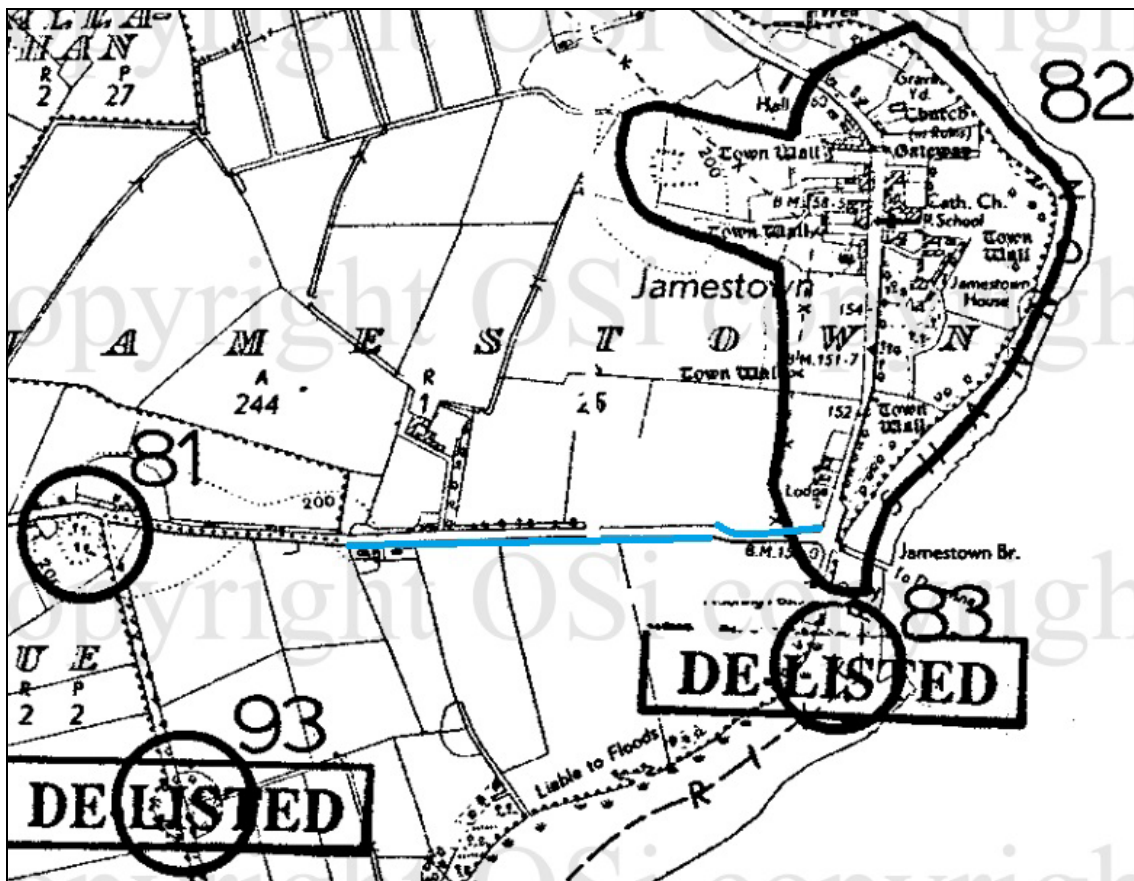


Figure 3: Record of Monuments and Places Map of Jamestown, Co. Leitrim

## 5.7 The National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files

The topographical survey for the townland of Jamestown was consulted and produced no results.

## 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](http://www.geohive.ie) and the Archaeological Survey of Ireland website [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) which clearly showed an aerial view of the development site in the townland of Jamestown. The aerial photograph clearly shows the proposed development site where the proposed footpath will be located. No archaeological features were noted in the aerial photography of the subject site.

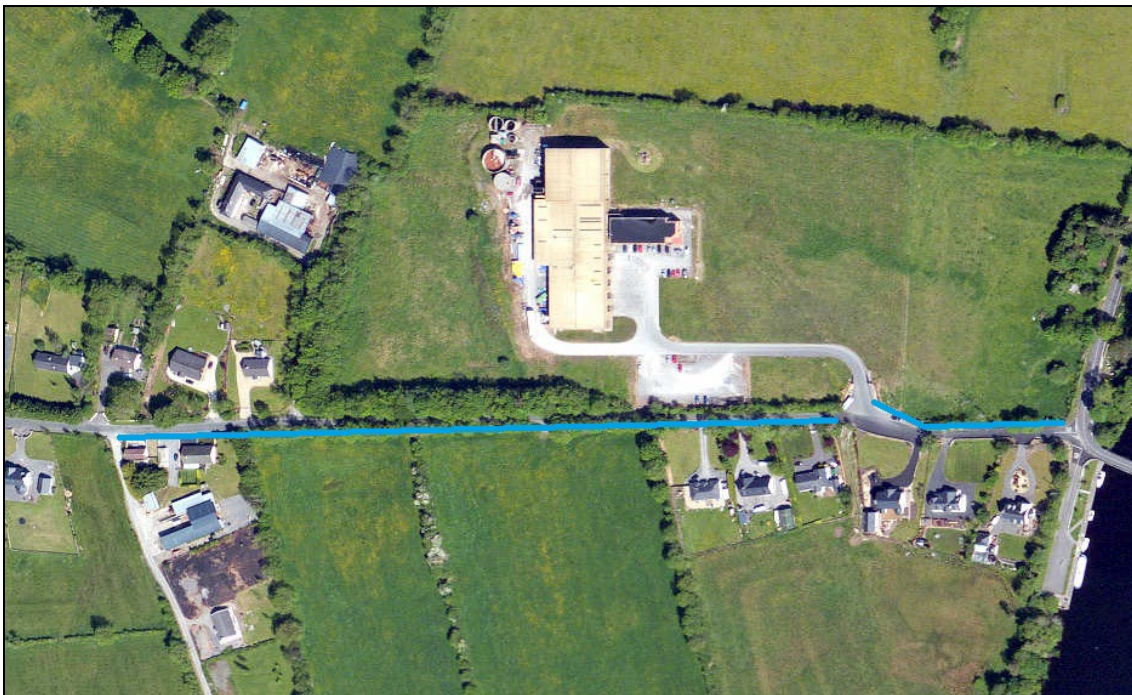


Figure 4: Aerial photograph of the Proposed Development Area

## 5.9 Lewis Topographical Dictionary of Ireland 1837

The following reference to Jamestown was found in a search of Lewis Topographical Dictionary of Ireland 1837:

“JAMESTOWN, a small market-town (formerly a parliamentary borough), in the parish of KILTOGHART, barony and county of LEITRIM, and province of CONNAUGHT; containing 311 inhabitants. This place, though said to have been anciently the site of a Franciscan monastery, was of very little importance prior to the settlement of Leitrim in the reign of James I. In 1621 that monarch granted divers lands, containing together 200 acres of arable and pasture and 12 acres of woodland and moor, to the inhabitants, whom he incorporated under the designation of the

sovereign, burgesses, and free commons of the borough and town of Jamestown, enjoining them by his charter to build a new town of that name in some convenient situation near the Shannon.

In 1623, Sir Charles Coote, to whom the king in reward of his services had granted the town with several extensive landed estates in the county, surrounded the town with walls and erected a castle on the banks of the Shannon, which in 1645 was besieged and taken by the Earl of Carlingford, after a few discharges of cannon. The R. C. prelates and clergy held a meeting in the friary of this town in 1650 and nominated commissioners to triumphant; the result was the inconclusive treaty with the Duke of Lorraine. In 1689, Col. Lloyd with a party of the Enniskillen forces attacked, and, after a sharp resistance, took possession of the town; but the native Irish under General Sarsfield marching against it, the garrison that had been left for its defence abandoned it and retired to Sligo.

The town is pleasantly situated on the navigable course of the Shannon and contains about 48 houses; the chief vestige of its former importance is an ancient gateway through which the mail coach road passes, and which has been castellated by the present proprietor, Francis O'Beirne, Esq., who has built a handsome residence contiguous to it. There is a large flour-mill on the Shannon, which here has a considerable fall. The market is on Saturday. By the charter of James I. the corporation consisted of a sovereign, 12 burgesses, and an indefinite number of free commoners, assisted by a recorded, town-clerk, coroner, serjeants-at-mace, and inferior officers. The sovereign, who with this deputy was justice of the peace, and also coroner and clerk of the market, was annually elected by the corporation from the burgesses, by whom all vacancies in their own body were filled, all officers appointed, and the free commoners admitted solely by favour. The charter also conferred the right of sending two members to the Irish parliament, which was exercised till the Union, when the borough was disfranchised. The corporation had power to hold a court of record, with jurisdiction extending to £20; but for some time previously to the Union they exercised few of their municipal functions, except that of returning members to parliament, and since that period the body has become extinct.

Towards the close of the last century, the Earl of Mountrath built a school-house here free to the poor of the neighbourhood, and endowed it with £40 per ann., but the endowment has been lost; and here is a national school, for which a handsome school-house has been built at an expense of £600 by Francis O'Beirne, Esq.; in the upper part of the building is a small establishment of lay monks. There are some slight vestiges of the ancient abbey on the banks of the Shannon, and also the castle; there was formerly in the town a prison and barracks, both of which have been destroyed". (source: <https://www.libraryireland.com/topog/J/Jamestown-Leitrim-Leitrim.php>).

## 5.10 Cartographic Evidence

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

### 5.10.1 Ordnance Survey 1837 edition (6" map)

The proposed development area at Jamestown can be clearly seen on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of County Leitrim dated to the 1830's. The access road is visible as a tree lined road with no features of archaeological features present.

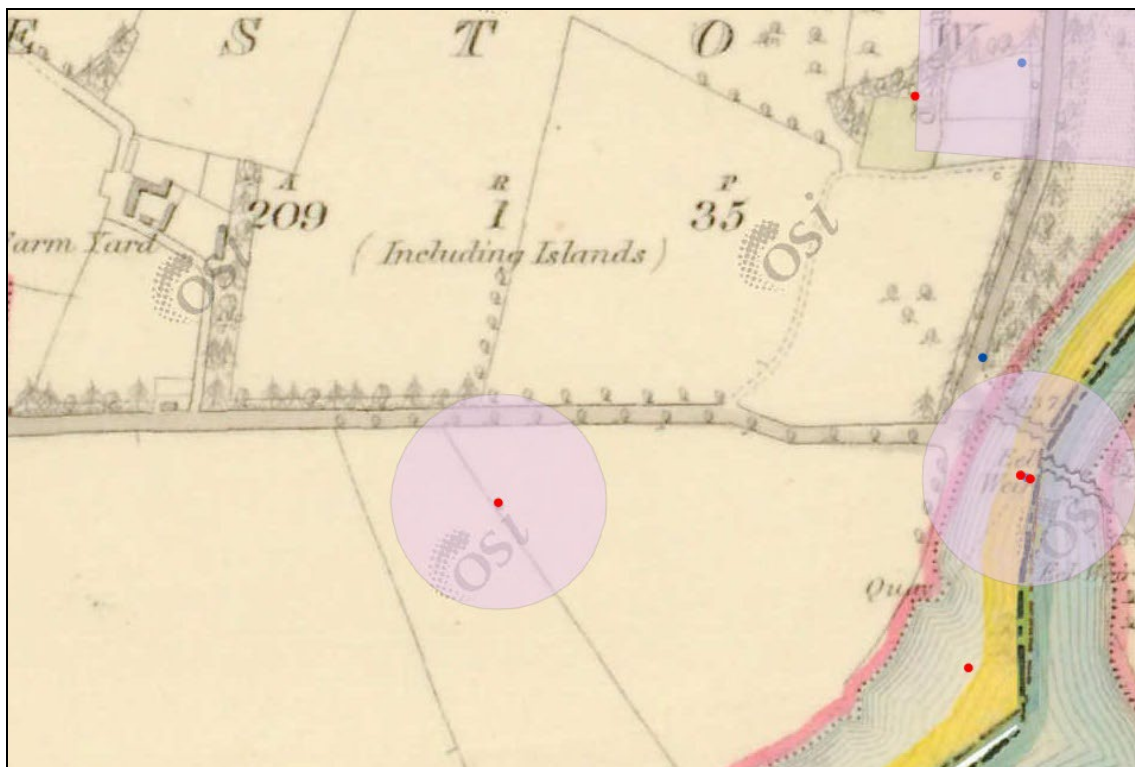


Figure 5: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1837 of the site at Jamestown, Co. Leitrim

### 5.10.2 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 not undergone any major or distinctive change since the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map of the 1830s. Nothing of an archaeological nature is of note in this edition of the map. The third edition of the Ordnance Survey Map shows again shows little change.

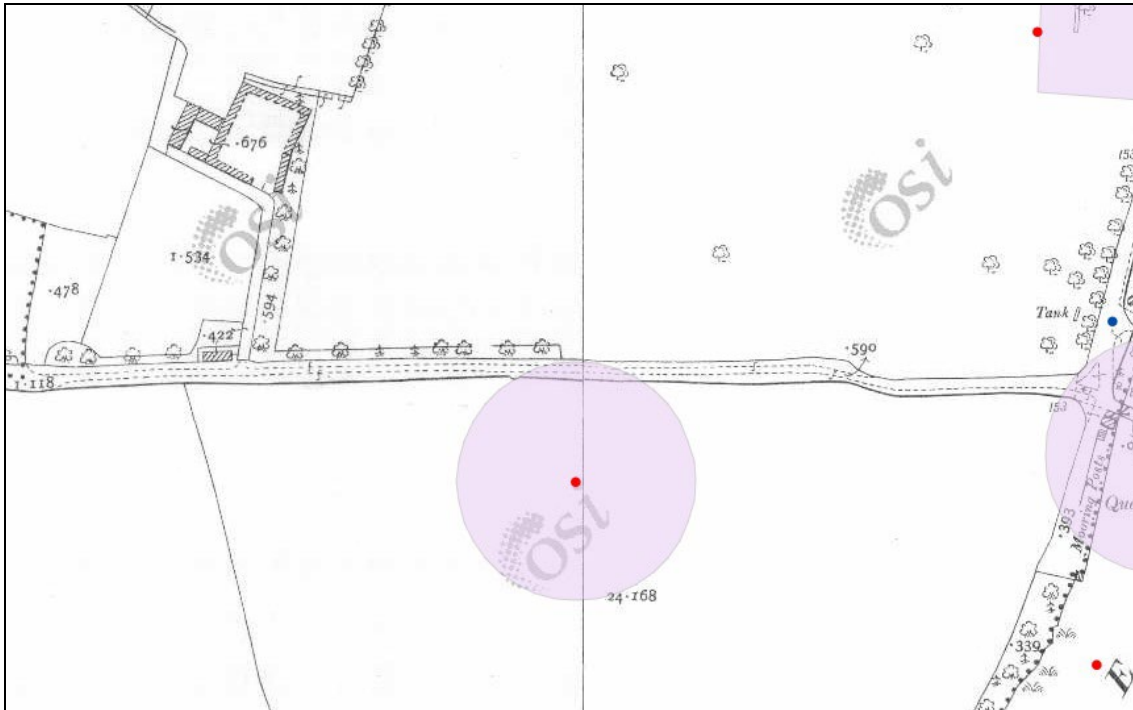


Figure 6: Ordnance Survey Map 1910 of the site at Jamestown, Co. Leitrim

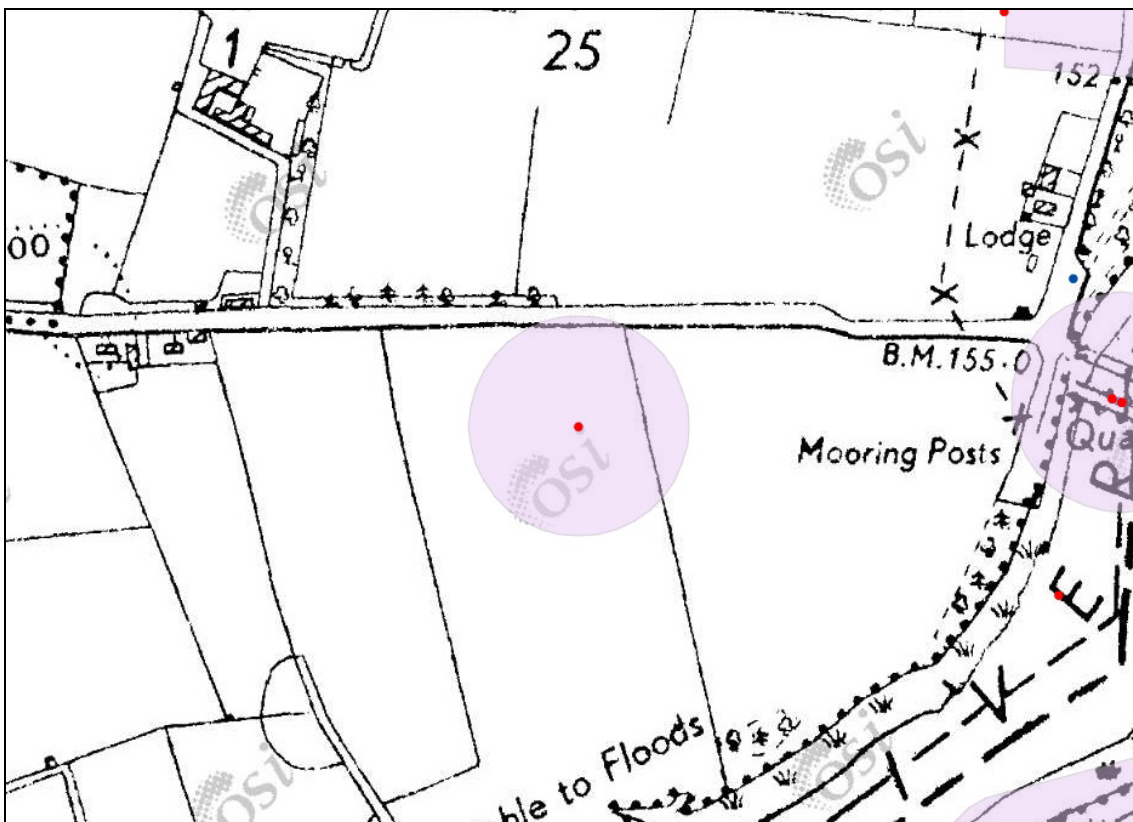


Figure 7: Third Edition Cassini Ordnance Survey Map c.1930 of Jamestown, Co. Leitrim



Down Survey Map was produced in the years 1656-1658, the Down Survey of Ireland is the first ever detailed land survey on a national scale anywhere in the world. The survey sought to measure all the land to be forfeited by the Catholic Irish to facilitate its redistribution to Merchant Adventurers and English soldiers. The walled town of Jamestown is present on this map as a walled castellated town with a central road and a bridge crossing the River Shannon.



Figure 8: Down Survey Map c. 1656-1658 of Jamestown Co. Leitrim

## 6 RESULTS OF THE SITE INSPECTION

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The site visit was undertaken on the 18th of January 2022 on foot of a request from Leitrim Planning Department for pre-development archaeological screening report to include a site walkover. Site conditions were good during the visit and all areas were accessible. The subject site comprises existing road which is single tracked and links the village of Jamestown to the area to the Southwest. The proposed footpath extends for c. 460m from east to west and will be located along the north side of the road where it will be in the footprint of an existing stone wall field boundary. This portion of stone wall will be rebuilt and reinstated along the northern boundary of the path. Due care should be given to examine all masonry remains in proximity to the historic town of Jamestown which was walled town and remains of this may be present at the eastern end of the proposed scheme. As the path extends westwards it will diverted to the south side of the road and

linked by a controlled pedestrian crossing. Supporting infrastructure such as drainage and lighting will be provided for along the footpath.

As the footpath extends westwards along the north side of the road the existing tree lined boundary will be removed to provide space for the footpath along the wayleave. To the south of the treelined boundary there is a recorded monument LE031-109---- described as an enclosure and discovered in a LiDAR survey dataset commissioned by Leitrim County Council and the TII. The monument consists of a D-shaped grass-covered area defined by an earthen bank and outer fosse. There is no identifiable entrance. The bank is not very defensible, and it is possible that the enclosure was a tree-ring. The removal of the treelined boundary may impact on remains of the enclosure and any possible associated archaeological material.

The westernmost area of the footpath will be adjacent to a cluster of farm buildings that appear on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (dated c. 1910) of the Ordnance Survey Map. The remainder of the scheme does not appear to affect any other features on the landscape – either cultural or archaeological. No additional features of a possible archaeological nature were identified during the site inspection.



**Plate 1: NW facing view of the stone wall field boundary at the eastern end of the proposed footpath**



**Plate 2: NW facing view of the eastern end of the proposed path**



**Plate 3: East facing view of the eastern area of the proposed footpath**



**Plate 4: East facing view of the eastern end of the proposed footpath**



**Plate 5: West facing view of the eastern area of the proposed footpath**



**Plate 6: West facing view of the location of the proposed pedestrian crossing**



**Plate 7: West facing view of the road – proposed footpath to be located to the left in the treelined boundary**



**Plate 8: East facing view of the road with the proposed footpath to be located to the right in the treelined boundary**



**Plate 9: SE facing view of the recorded monument LE031-109---- Enclosure, taken from the edge of the treelined boundary**



**Plate 10: SW facing view of the treelined boundary**



**Plate 11: South facing view of the western terminus of the proposed footpath**



**Plate 12: SE facing view of the properties adjacent to the proposed western end of the footpath**

## 7 CONCLUSION

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The proposed development is in the vicinity of and within the zone of archaeological notification of recorded monument RMP LE031-109---- Enclosure and close to RMP LE031-082---- Historic Town and RMP LE031-082008- Bridge.

No archaeological material was identified within the Proposed Development Area during the site inspection. The proposed development of the footpath will not have a direct impact either physical or visual on any known archaeological monument.

The proposed works of removal of the tree lined boundary adjacent to recorded monument RMP LE031-109---- Enclosure and the removal of the stone walled boundary at the North-eastern end of the proposed footpath at the point closest to RMP LE031-082---- Historic Town and RMP LE031-082008- Bridge, may result in negative impact on previously unrecorded archaeological material that may survive in these areas.



## 8 RECOMMENDATIONS

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Due to the location of the development in areas largely untouched previously these areas may contain subsurface archaeological remains. Therefore, it is recommended that several areas of the proposed scheme be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring during construction, where groundworks involve removal of topsoil or subsurface works such as drainage. These recommended monitoring areas are as follows:

- 1) Proposed location of the proposed footpath in the location of tree lined boundary adjacent to recorded monument RMP LE031-109---- Enclosure.
- 2) Proposed location of the proposed footpath at the North-eastern end of the proposed footpath at the point closest to RMP LE031-082---- Historic Town and RMP LE031-082008- Bridge.

It is recommended that these areas of the proposed scheme be comprehensively subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring as required to 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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