

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
FOR PROPOSED DRUMSHANBO TOWN
CENTRE REGENERATION PROJECT
AT DRUMSHANBO, CO. LEITRIM**

**ON BEHALF OF
LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL**



Planning Reference Number: Part 8 Planning

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Date: November 2023

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| Date | 24 th November 2023 |

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

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ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
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| 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 assessment carried out by Fadó Archaeology at Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim on behalf of Leitrim County Council.

The proposed works entails development of the Drumshanbo Town Centre Regeneration Project trail. The scheme traverses several townlands including Carricknabrack, Moneynure and Drumshanbo, in Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim.

The proposed scheme entails the regeneration of the areas around the Market Yard, People's Park and the renovation and regeneration of two buildings on the Main Street as well as a trail along the banks of the Drumshanbo River linking with existing pedestrian walkways and public spaces.

The site inspection took place on the 21st of November 2023. No finds or features of archaeological significance were noted during the site inspection of all accessible areas.

The Drumshanbo Town Centre Regeneration Project development will have no direct or negative impact on any known recorded archaeological sites or monuments in the vicinity of the proposed development area in the greenfield areas, along the river and within the built areas or within the yards and associated buildings.

There will be no visual impact on the recorded archaeological sites or monuments in the vicinity of the proposed development.

Due to the scale of the development which is 0.794 hectares (c. 1.962 acres), it is recommended that archaeological monitoring be undertaken of subsurface works associated with the development.

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 development may have had on any above ground or subsurface archaeological remains.

1.2 Purpose of the Project

The Drumshanbo Town Centre Regeneration Project will include the following works:

1) The redevelopment of two vacant buildings on Main Street, namely the former Bank of Ireland, a three-storey building, and the adjacent commercial building formerly known as 'Earley's', a three-storey building. Development works will include the demolition of the rear extensions to the respective buildings and the erection of a linear two-storey extension to the south side linking both buildings to provide commercial use to the entire ground floor and new smart working facility to the entire first and second floors. Works will include the creation of a new pedestrian walkway on the ground floor through 'Earley's' building to link a new public realm to the rear. All services will connect to existing public mains.

2) The creation of a public realm and additional parking to the rear of the renovated and extended commercial buildings on Main Street. The nature of the public realm works includes, inter alia, the opening of vehicular and pedestrian access routes through the existing stone boundary wall between the existing Market Street carpark and the former Bank of Ireland Building, lowering the height of the entire wall to 1m high, realignment works to the existing Market Street Carpark, the provision of new public lighting, a dedicated pedestrianized public realm that will incorporate seating, the provision of hard and soft landscaping, ramp access between Main Street and the redeveloped riverside walkway and a car park for seven car parking spaces

3) The redevelopment and partial reconstruction of two derelict outbuildings to the east of the Drumshanbo River. Both two-storey buildings will be redeveloped and repurposed to provide commercial use on both ground and first floors respectively, which will entail elevational changes and connections to existing foul and storm mains.

4) Riverside and town park improvement works to enhance the existing parklands and riverside walkway (known locally as 'People's Park'). The nature of the riverside and town park works

includes inter-alia, the extension of the pedestrian walkway along the west of the river under the existing park footbridge to connect with a new footbridge 30m to the south which will in turn connect with the new public realm (to the rear of Main Street), an extension of the pedestrian walkway along the eastern side of the river to connect through the curtilage of Drumshanbo Methodist Church, a protected structure on the Leitrim County Council Record of Protected Structures (RPS No.14) to connect via a new pedestrian bridge with the junction of the Carrick Road and the Food Hub/Carraig Breac housing development road. Works will also include the altering of the existing hard landscaping area at the entrance to the Food Hub/Carrig Breac housing development, provision of new footpath along Carrig Breac housing development access road to include new entrance to the People's Park, new steps and ramp access within the park, the erection of new way finding signs, the provision of new public lighting, new hard and soft landscaping, new boundary treatments inclusive of railings, hedgerows and walls.

The overall site area comprises 0.794 hectares (c. 1.962 acres).

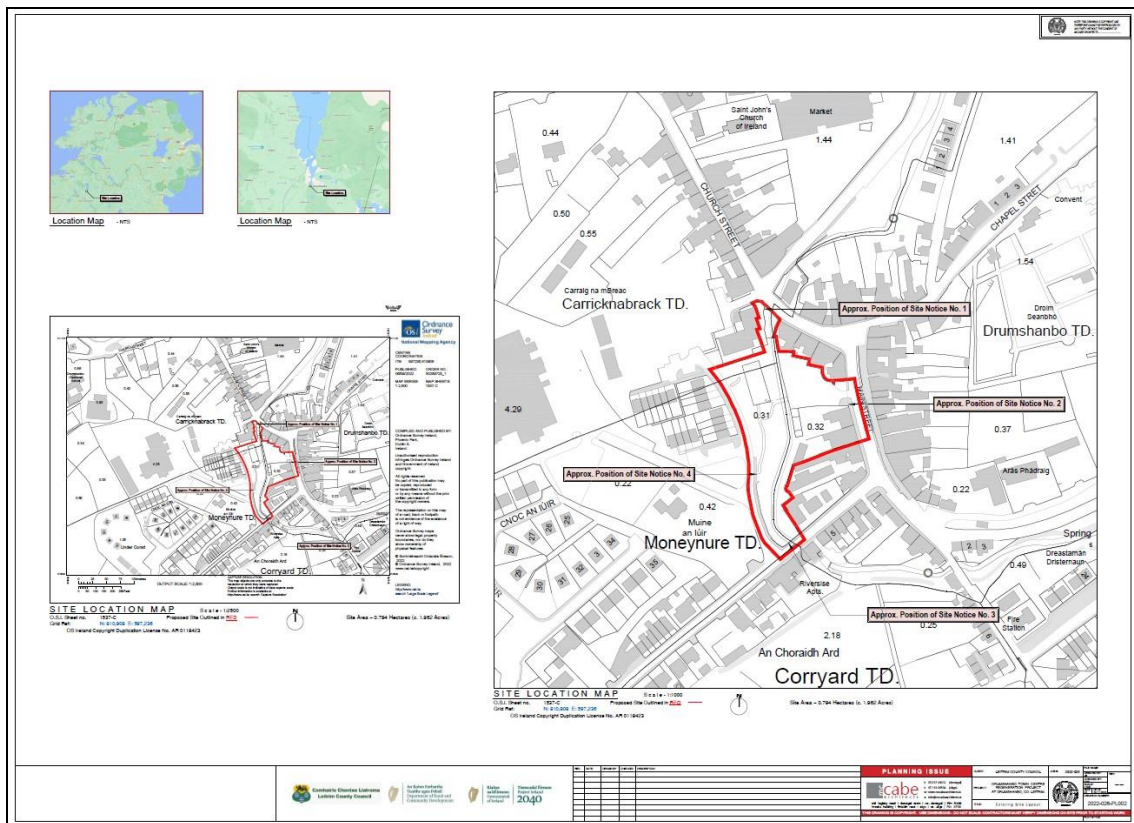


Figure 1: Site map of the proposed regeneration project at Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim.

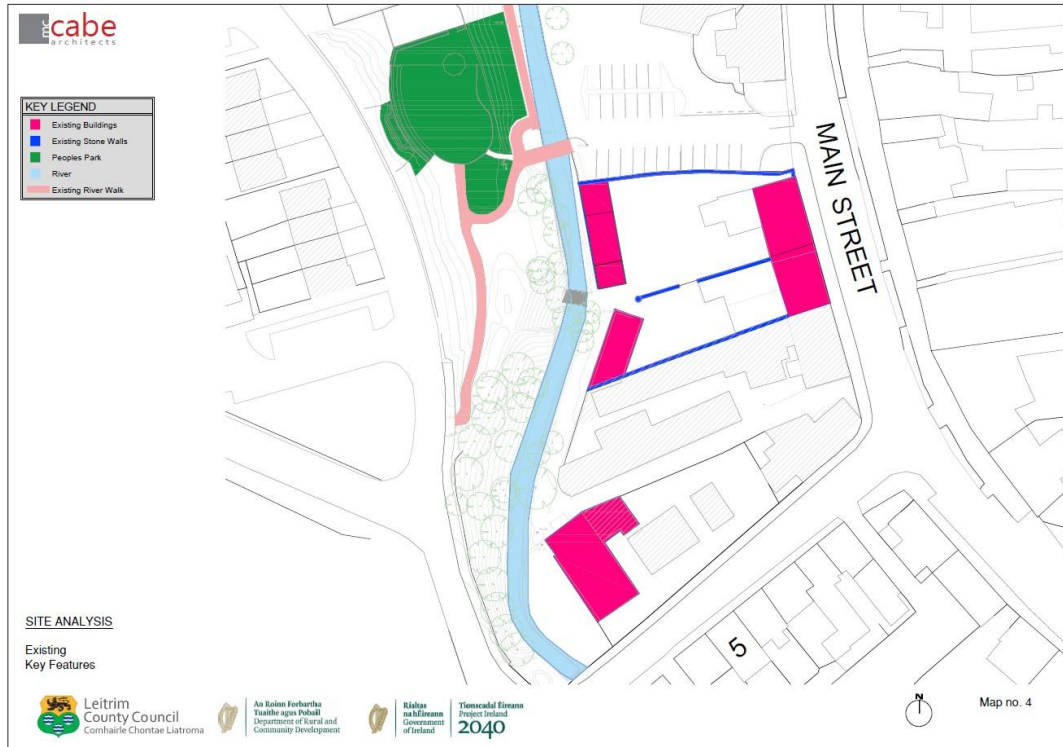


Figure 2: Detailed plan of the existing key features proposed for the regeneration project.

1.3 Archaeological Assessment

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

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

archaeological impact statement describing the possible direct or indirect effects of the proposed development on elements of the archaeological heritage.

1.4 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.

1.5 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.

1.6 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 Drumshanbo Town Centre Regeneration Project is centred on the town of Drumshanbo, which is located in north Co. Leitrim. Drumshanbo is located 13.5 km north of Carrick-on-Shannon via the R280 and R207. The scheme traverses several townlands including Carricknabrack, Moneynure and Drumshanbo.

| Study area | OS Sheet number | Central ITM | Townlands |
|------------|-----------------|---------------|---|
| Leitrim | LE023 | 597318/810877 | Carricknabrack Moneynure Drumshanbo |

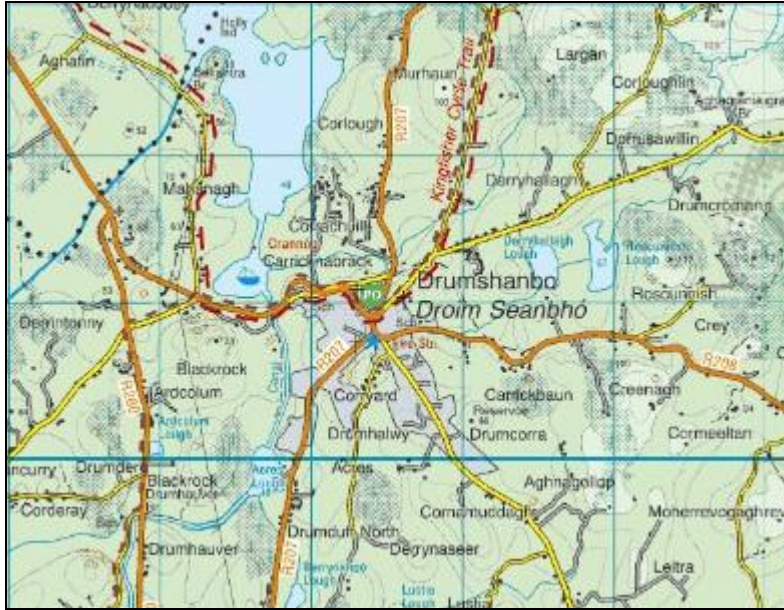


Figure 3: OSI Discovery series map of the Drumshanbo area (source: heritagemaps.ie).

2.2 Description of the Site

Access to the site is via Main Street, which accesses the carpark at Market Street in the town centre of Drumshanbo. The proposed extension to a trail will extend from the People's Park at Riverside and follow the southwestern edge of the Drumshanbo River crosses towards the eastern bank and exiting at the Methodist Church on the R207 road. Two existing buildings that face on to Main Street are proposed for renovation and there will be redevelopment of the yards and associated buildings to the rear that bound the eastern bank of the river. The People's Park is proposed for improvements as are the general environs of the site at Market Yard.

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 town of Drumshanbo is in lowland, in the foothills of Sliabh Iarainn and close to Lough Allen. The scheme is located in the urban core of Drumshanbo town, accessed from Main Street and

located along the scenic banks of the Drumshanbo River. The land to on all sides is in use as residential and commercial and the thriving centre of the town.

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 Tullyshehery 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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/Drumshanbo-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 development:

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

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

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:

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.

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 townlands of Carricknabrack, Moneynure and Drumshanbo are 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’. Carricknabrack translates in Irish as *Carraig na mBreac* (genitive: *Charraig na mBreac*) meaning ‘the speckled rock’. Moneynure translates in Irish as *Muine an lúir* (genitive: *Mhuine an lúir*) meaning ‘the thicket of yew trees’.

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.

| 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 (LE023-028001-) 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 4: Record of Monument and Place Map 023 of Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim.

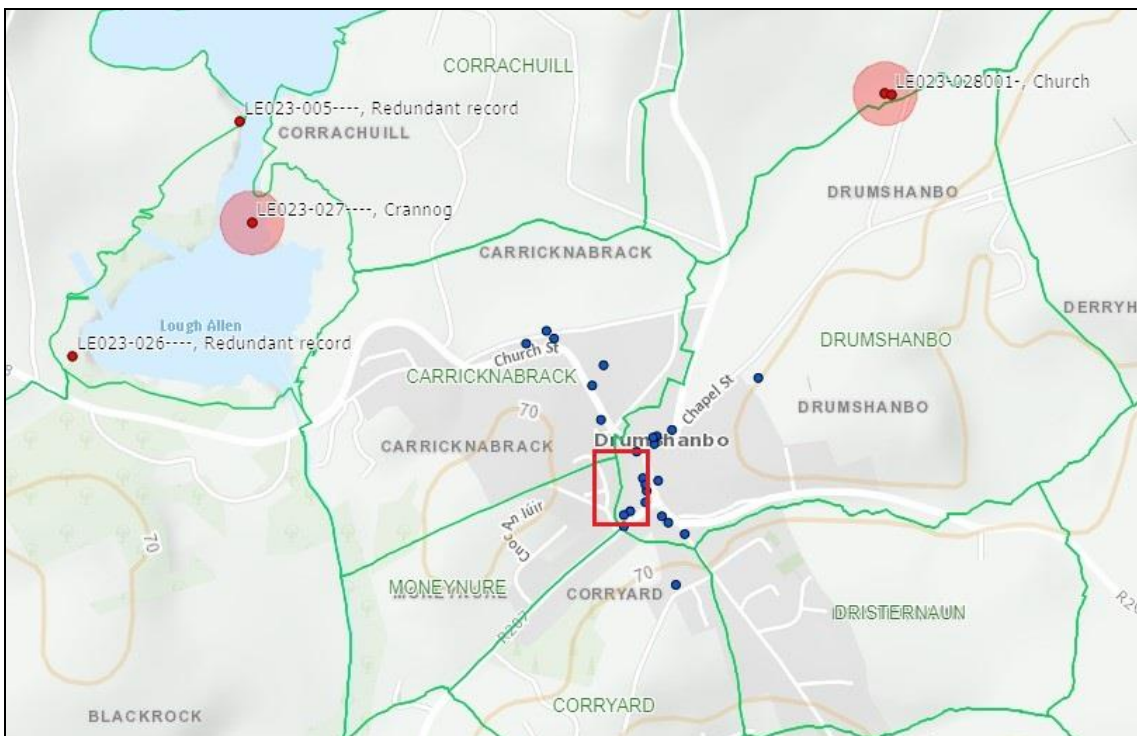


Figure 5: Archaeological Survey of Ireland of the PDA showing the proximity to the nearest monuments.

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 wider environs of 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 streets and buildings, as well as the park and the river. An examination of the available aerial imagery revealed no additional archaeological features in the aerial photography of this area.



Figure 6: 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 town of Drumshanbo appears on the map as a small cluster of buildings lining the road.



Figure 7: 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 scheme is proposed can be seen as a 'Fair Green' on the south of the town along the river and there are few buildings or features noted.

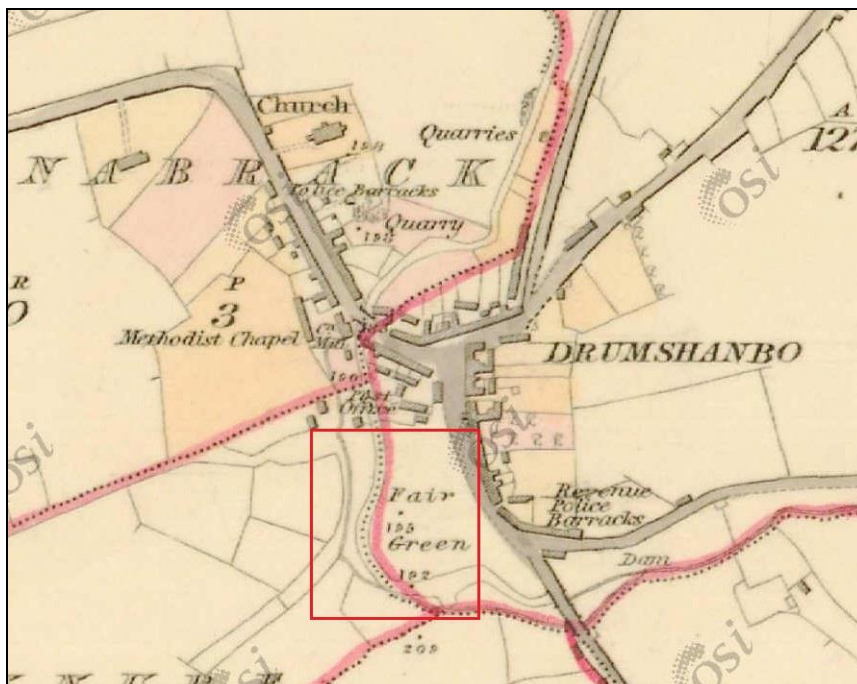


Figure 8: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1837 of the PDA.

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. 1910. The subject site and the surrounding area have undergone considerable change since the 1st Edition OS Map of the 1830s. Additional to this map are the buildings that now occupy the former 'Fair Green', including the Methodist Church, and the buildings along Main Street that are proposed for renovation as part of the scheme. No features of an archaeological nature were noted within the PDA on any edition of the historic Ordnance Survey maps.

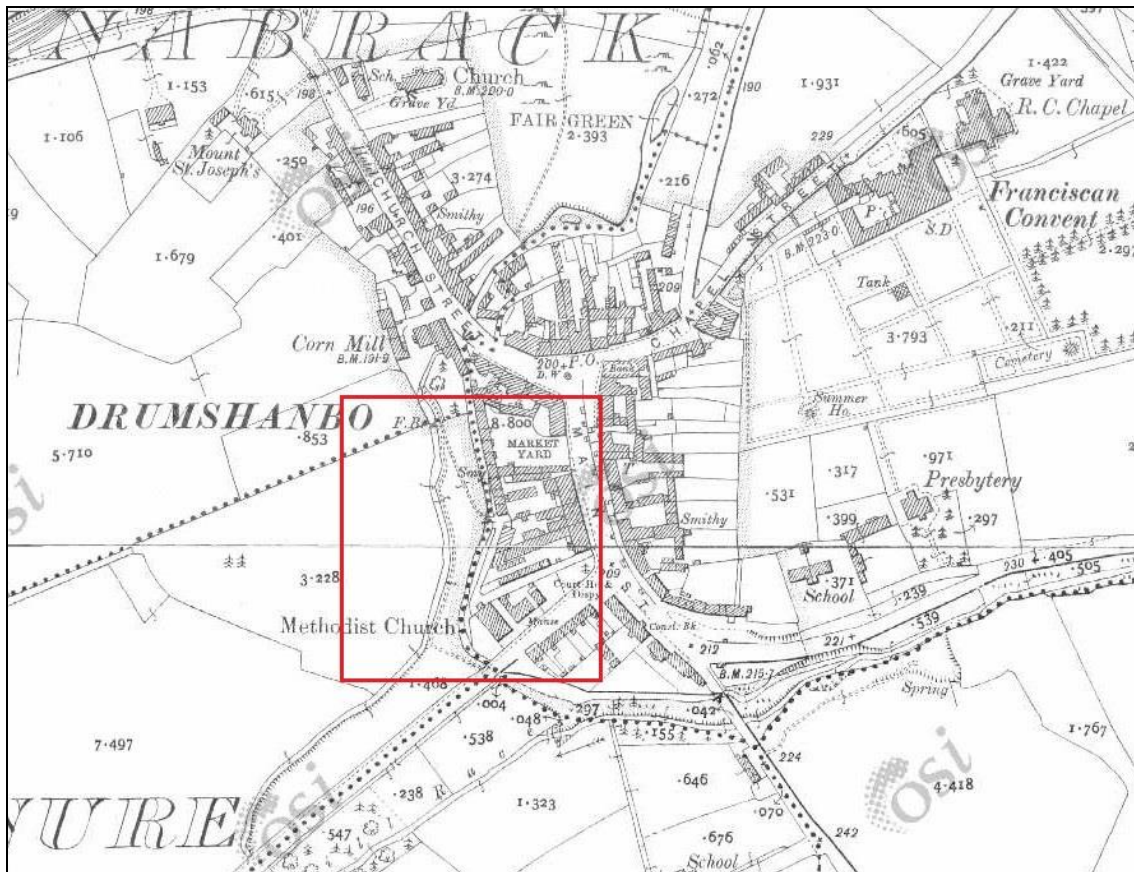


Figure 9: Ordnance Survey Map 1910 of Drumshanbo showing the PDA.

6 RESULTS OF THE SITE INSPECTION

The site inspection took place on Tuesday the 21st of November 2023. The site conditions were good during the inspection and all areas were accessible to conduct a full site walkover. The site comprises an existing carpark at Market Yard which is bounded by stone walls with dressed stone pillars to the east at the entrance. The wall that bounds the river to the west is due to be reduced in height to provide a view of the river, there is evidence of a window (Plate 4) that is filled but indicates a former building at this location. The existing park is located to on the western side of

the river and will be upgraded and the existing trail will be extended southwards along the tree covered western bank of the river before crossing a stone flagged bridge to the eastern side of the river (Plates 8-9). The stone flagged bridge is a heritage feature which should be retained. The trail in this area is bounded by high stone walls, the rear walls of yards and buildings that front on to Main Street. The corner of this stone wall is curving and appears as a tower but is the gable of a stone store building (Plate 11). The trail continues southwards terminating where it meets a stone bridge along the R207. The termination of the trail is within a green lawned garden area which bounds the Methodist Church (RPS No. 14 NIAH 810821); there does not appear to be any graves or heritage features in this garden. The railings to the front of the church are to be preserved (Plate 14).

The scheme will also include the renovation of the former bank building (RPS No. 79 NIAH 810951) and the adjacent property with the features in their curtilage including associated rear yards, stone boundary walls and the outbuildings including a well preserved two-storey former forge or smithy (Plate 16). No material of an archaeological nature was noted in the footprint of the existing site including the stone walls, green areas and along the river, during the site walkover and inspection of the PDA. Neither was any archaeological material identified during a search of available desktop sources in relation to the site.



Plate 1: North facing view of the existing carpark at Market Yard.



Plate 2: West facing view of the existing bridge and access to the People's Park from Market Yard.



Plate 3: SE facing view of the Market Yard carpark and the boundary wall with the bank site.



Plate 4: West facing view of the boundary wall between the carpark and the river showing trace remains of a window.



Plate 5: North facing view of the People's Park.



Plate 6: North facing view of the People's Park and the pedestrian walkway along the river.



Plate 7: South facing view of the river where the extension to the pedestrian walkway is proposed.



Plate 8: South facing view of the stone bridge where the walkway is proposed to cross.



Plate 9: Detail of the stone flagged bridge.



Plate 10: South facing view of the path along the river bounded by stone walls for properties that front on to Main Street.



Plate 11: East facing view of the rounded gable wall of a stone store building.



Plate 12: South facing view of the rear of the Methodist Church and the location of the proposed extension to the pedestrian walkway along the river.



Plate 13: North facing view of the garden of the Methodist Church and the location of the proposed pedestrian walkway along the river.



Plate 14: NE facing view of the railings in the boundary wall of the Methodist Church.



Plate 15: NE facing view of the rear of the former bank building.



Plate 16: East facing view of the stone outbuilding to the rear of the bank, this was a former forge or smithy.



Plate 17: East facing view of the boundary wall between the carpark and the bank site.



Plate 18: NW facing view of the boundary wall between the carpark and the bank site, where vehicular access is proposed to be provided through the wall.



Plate 19: East facing view of the rear of the second building which is adjacent to the bank and also fronts on to Main Street.



Plate 20: West facing view of the yard of the second building with a semi demolished stone outbuilding.

7 CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

The Drumshanbo Town Centre Regeneration Project development will have no direct or negative impact on any known recorded archaeological sites or monuments in the vicinity of the proposed development area in the greenfield areas, along the river and within the built areas or within the yards and associated buildings. There will be no visual impact on the recorded archaeological sites or monuments in the vicinity of the proposed development. Due to the scale of the development which is 0.794 hectares (c. 1.962 acres), it is recommended that archaeological monitoring should be undertaken of subsurface works associated with the development. 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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