

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

FOR PROPOSED ALTERATION WORKS

AT THE DIAMOND, DONEGAL, CO. DONEGAL

ON BEHALF OF

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL



Reference No.: Part 8 Planning

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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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ABBREVIATIONS

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

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report describes the results of an Archaeological Impact Assessment carried out by Fadó Archaeology at the Diamond, Donegal town, Co. Donegal on behalf of Donegal County Council.

The following archaeological report documents the project, the receiving environment and outlines the impact of the proposed works on the archaeological record. The proposed works entail the alteration works at the Diamond, Donegal town, Co. Donegal.

The proposed works are located within the zone of notification for numerous Recorded Monuments including RMP No. DG093-013--- - Historic Town and DG093-013007- House - 16th/17th century.

The site inspection took place on Friday the 4th of February 2022. No additional finds or features of archaeological significance were noted during the site inspection.

The proposed works will have no direct impact, either physical or visual, on the Recorded Monuments in the direct vicinity.

However subsurface works associated with the construction of the proposed alterations to the Diamond may have a negative impact on any sub-surface archaeological remains that may survive below ground associated

with the Historic Town. Therefore, an appropriate mitigation in the form of archaeological monitoring should be undertaken during subsurface works.

It is recommended that should the proposed works be approved archaeological monitoring should be conducted by a suitably qualified archaeologist during replanting works should that involve subsurface works. It is recommended that an archaeologist conduct monitoring of any groundworks including drainage works to inspect the entire area for previously unrecorded sites, monuments, or artefacts of archaeological significance.

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.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service (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 to include visual impact at the Diamond, Donegal, Co. Donegal on behalf of Donegal County Council. The following report documents the project, the existing environment at the site and assesses the potential impact the proposed alterations work may have on any above ground or subsurface archaeological remains as well as the visual impact the works may have on the historic cultural heritage landscape of Donegal Town.

1.2 Purpose of the Project

The proposed works involve the alteration works to enhance the public realm area of the Diamond a central area in Donegal town, as indicated in Figure 1 and Figure 2.



Figure 1: Proposed alterations works to the Diamond Donegal town

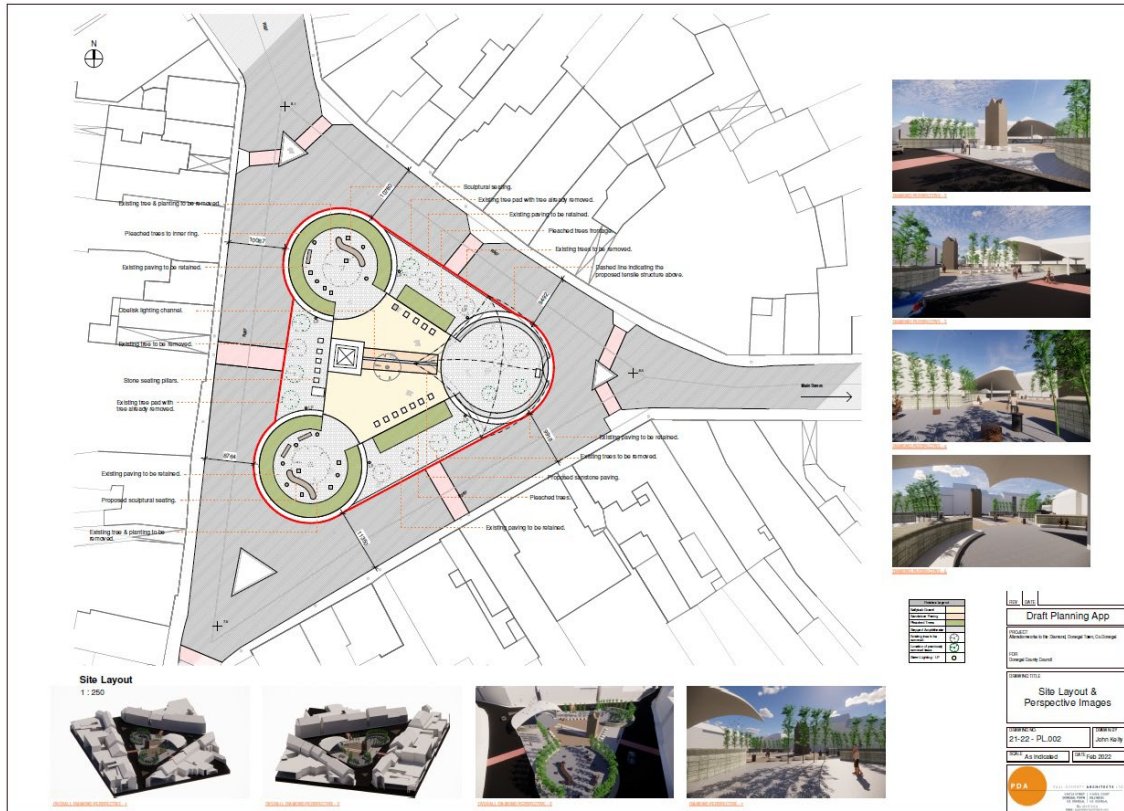


Figure 2: Proposed alterations works to the Diamond Donegal

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 (Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage. Published by Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht, and the Islands 1999 pages 25-7).

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, 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 afforestation 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 in the form of a Ministerial Consent.

Donegal County Development Plan 2018-2024

The Donegal County Development Plan 2018-2024 was consulted. It contained the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) for County Donegal.

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 093 of the O.S six-inch series for Donegal (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.

Donegal County Library

The Local Studies section of Donegal County Library is housed in Donegal County Library in Letterkenny. 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. 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.

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 Description of the Site

The proposed works are in the centre of Donegal town at a triangular area known as the Diamond. Donegal townland is in the barony of *Tír Aodha/Tirhugh*, and the civil parishes of *Dún na nGall/Donegal* and *Cill Ó mBaird/Killymard*. Donegal translates in Irish as *Dún na nGall* (genitive: *Dhún na nGall*), *Dun* meaning 'fort' and *Gall* meaning 'foreigner or standing stone'.

2.2 Site Layout/Locational details

The proposed development area is in the urban centre of Donegal town and is located at the Diamond a public space that forms between Main Street, Quay Street and Bridge Street. Donegal town is the commercial centre of South Donegal and is 49km south of Letterkenny and 21km north of Ballyshannon. The site is accessed directly from the street where raised pedestrian crossings allow for access from the surrounding streets to the Diamond.

Study area	OS Sheet number	Central NGR	Townland
Donegal	093	592881/878402	Donegal

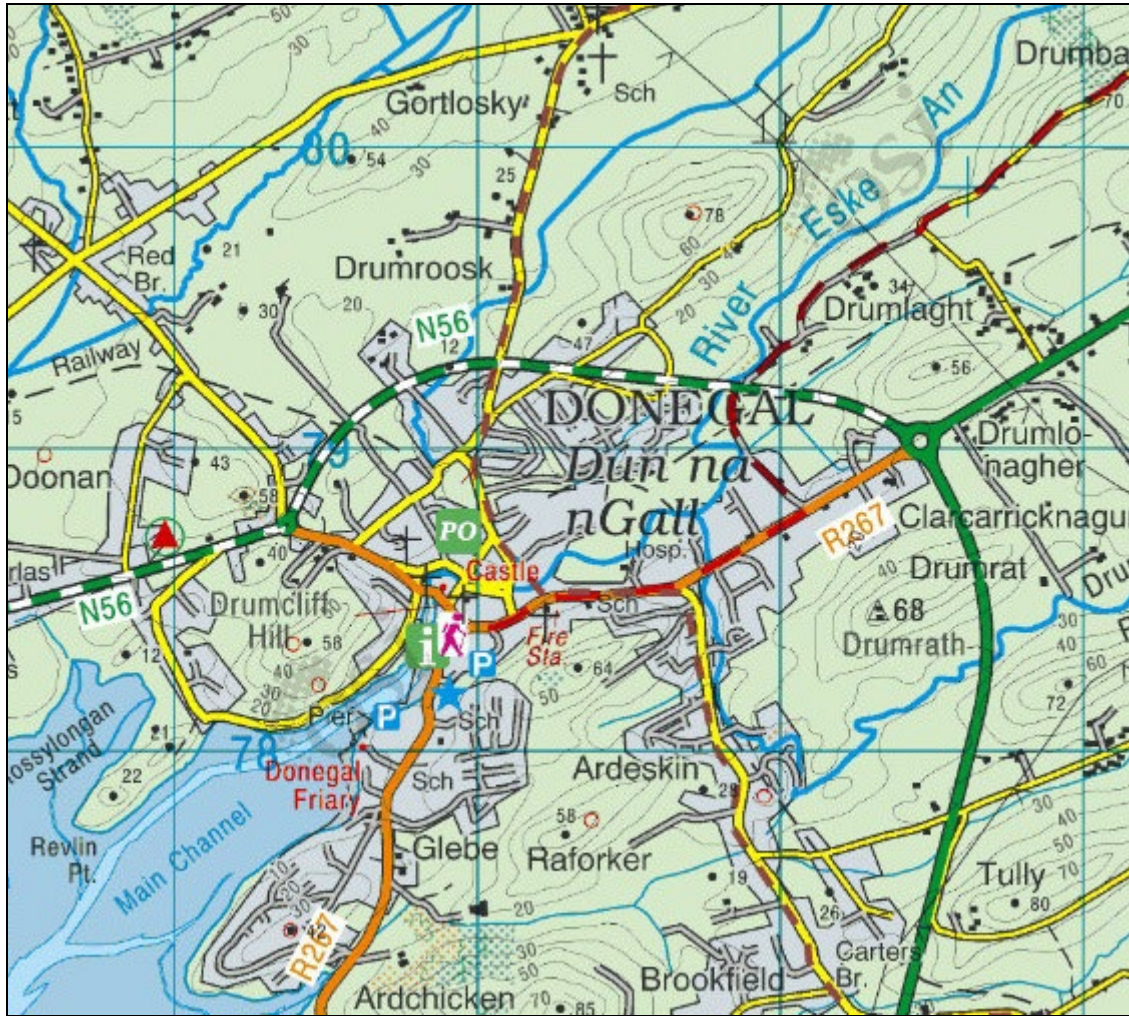


Figure 3: Discovery series map of the study area of Donegal town.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Solid Geology and Soil Type

The parent material in this region of Donegal consists of mostly upper carboniferous limestone and shale with a sandstone glacial till. The broad physiographic division is categorised as drumlin. The principal soil is made up of gley (85%), with associated soils consisting of interdrumlin peat and peaty gleys (15%).

3.2 Landscape

The landscape in this part of Donegal is characterised as rolling hills along the sheltered coast of Donegal Bay. The town of Donegal is built at the confluence of the River Eske and Atlantic Ocean

saw it established as an important trading location. The harbour is located to the Southwest of the core of the town and at the highest point overlooking the surrounding town is Donegal Castle. The town is a thriving urban centre, centred on the Diamond where all the streets that form the town converge.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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

4.1 Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age):

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

Some flint objects dating from the Mesolithic have been found in Donegal, particularly Bann Flakes from the Later Mesolithic, and the discovery of a collection of narrow blades, which were found in Raw's Bog near Castlefinn may well date to the Early Mesolithic, c. 5500 BC. The discovery of so many Mesolithic artefacts near to rivers would suggest that these people were using rivers, such as the Foyle and the Finn, as means of transport. In the late 1800s a possible early Mesolithic axe was found in the vicinity of Dunfanaghy, which would suggest that there have been groups of people inhabiting Donegal from the early Mesolithic to modern times. In the 1960s at Dunaff Bay at the northwest of Inishowen peninsula, near the mouth of Lough Swilly a Mesolithic site was excavated, the only definite site in Donegal.

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. Donegal is well represented by megalithic monuments of the Neolithic with c. 10% of Ireland's megalithic tombs can be found in Donegal. 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. Pollen of cereals found at the site of two of these e. tombs would indicate cereal production in the immediate locality. Field systems, which were laid out prior to the formation of the bogs reiterate the evidence of a strong agricultural community in Donegal in prehistoric times.

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 excavated in County Donegal.

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.

Situated on a hilltop 800 feet above sea level, the Grianan of Aileach is a reconstructed stone fort that was originally built on an earthen rath. The origins of the Grianan of Aileach are dated back to 1700 B.C. It is linked to the Tuatha de Danann who invaded Ireland before the Celts and built stone forts on top of strategic hills. They worshipped Dagda (the Good God) and he too is associated with the origins of Aileach. It was he who ordered the building of a stone fort to act as a burial monument to his dead son.

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.

Donegal County was occupied from the 5th century on by the northern Ui Neill dynasties, the Cenel Conaill and the Cenel Eogain, before the latter expanded into mid-Ulster. It is from these dynastic families that the County derives the names of its two main parts, Inis Eogain and Tir Conaill. The County name, Donegal, derives from Dun na nGall, and is probably associated with Scandinavian/Viking activity in the area.

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 up to the 17th century. From 1169 AD when one of the warring kings (Dermot MacMurrough) in the east of Ireland appealed to the King of England for help in his fight

with a neighbouring king, the response of which was the arrival of the Anglo-Norman colonisation of Ireland. Norman control meant the eclipse of many Gaelic lords and chieftains, chiefly the O'Connor's of Connacht. Following the collapse of the lordship in the 1330s, all these families became estranged from the Anglo-Irish administration based in Dublin and assimilated with the Gaelic-Irish, adopting their language, religion, dress, laws, customs, and culture and marrying into Irish families. They "became more Irish than the Irish themselves".

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

In Donegal the Cenel Conaill retained control after the withdrawal of the Normans. In the 12th century the O'Donnells became princes of Tir Conaill. Under the leadership of the O'Donnells, the Cenel Conaill established their main seat in Donegal Town. The rivalry between the two Ulster families dominated the history of the region until their eventual defeat and conquest by the Elizabethans, with the Cenel Conaill being dominant in Donegal Town and beyond, maintaining control of the strategically important Barnesmore Gap. The Cenel Conaill retained control after the withdrawal of the Normans. In the 12th century the O'Donnells became Princes of Tir Conaill.' Under the leadership of the O'Donnells, the Cenel Conaill established their main seat in Donegal Town. The present castle granted to and adapted by Sir Basil Brook in the 17th Century incorporates the square tower of the castle erected by Red Hugh O'Donnell in 1505. During the 16th century, English garrisons were gradually established throughout the County, and in 1601, the Gaelic Chieftains were finally defeated by the Elizabethan forces. The subsequent 'Flight of the Earls' left the way open for the Elizabethans to confiscate and subsequently colonise the region. The County was sub-divided into plantations, with vast holdings being taken over by speculators. The settlers were, for the main part, Scots, and English.

4.7 History of Donegal Town

Donegal – in Gaelic – Dun na nGall (Fort of the Foreigner) an area where the friendliness is legendary and hospitality second to none. Built at the confluence of the River Eske and Atlantic Ocean saw it established as an important trading location. The ‘Annals of Tirchonail’ record the presence of Vikings in Donegal Bay in 807. Donegal Town links a dynamic present with an historical past – the coming to power of the O’Donnell Clan 1200 – 1607 AD.

The construction of both Donegal Castle and Donegal Abbey in 1474 – saw the area emerge as the ruling seat for this most powerful and wealthy clan – who held sway over forty-two castles and nine monasteries within their boundaries. Donegal Castle was used as a base by ‘The O’Donnell’ to communicate with the Kings of Spain/ France and the Holy See, Rome. Donegal Harbour was frequently used by Spanish and Bristol traders – as ‘The O’Donnell’ were known on the continent as the “Lords of the Fish”.

It was in small huts amongst the ruins of the destroyed Donegal Abbey in 1632 that the Four Masters- Micheal O’Cleirigh; Cucoigriche O’Cleirigh; Cucoigriche O’Duignan; Fearfeasa OMaolchonaire conceived and commenced work on the most famous comprehensive history of Ireland at that time – ‘The Annals of the Four Masters’.

The Flight of the Earls in 1607 witnessed ‘The O’Donnell’ chieftains depart from Tirconail and ultimately the demise of the Gaelic way of life. The Plantation of Ulster granted Donegal Castle and lands to an English servitor Sir Basil Brooke – who set about repairing the partially destroyed Donegal Castle and extending a new wing – The Manor House, using the stones from the then Donegal Abbey which had been destroyed some years previous. He also commenced planning and building the present-day structure of the town – complete with a central marketplace – The Diamond. In 1612 Donegal was granted a royal charter returning two MPs to Irish parliament and continued to develop as a market town. The Diamond was used as a market area for goods and livestock up until the late 1950’s. The twenty-five feet obelisk in the centre of the Diamond – built of Mountcharles sandstone – to the memory of ‘The Four Masters’.

Source: <https://thisisdonegal.ie/donegal-town/history/>

5 DESKTOP DATA

5.1 National Monuments

There is a National Monument listed in state care located in the immediate vicinity of the subject site:

Donegal Castle is a National Monument (No.174) in State care.

5.2 Previous Archaeological Work

A search of the database www.excavations.ie produced the following result in the vicinity of the subject area of Donegal townland:

2000:0170 - DONEGAL, Donegal

County: Donegal Site name: DONEGAL

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 00E0765

Author: Rosanne Meenan, Roestown, Drumree, Co. Meath.

Site type: Vicinity of friary

ITM: E 592853m, N 878596m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 54.655489, -8.110752

A new pumping house is to be built on the east shore of the channel of the River Eske beside the remains of Donegal Friary, as part of a Donegal Town main drainage scheme. The site is located to the south of Donegal Town. The river is tidal at this point.

Karl Brady, of the Underwater Archaeological Unit, Dúchas The Heritage Service, observed the remains of a stone-and-wood structure in the foreshore close to the site of the proposed pumping house. He identified this as the remains of a possible jetty. The writer visited the site during test boring to ensure that the jetty was not damaged during this work. A complete site assessment is to be carried out prior to construction of the pumping station.

2000:0172 - QUAY STREET, DONEGAL, Donegal

County: Donegal Site name: QUAY STREET, DONEGAL

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 00E0243 and ext.

Author: Alan Hayden, Archaeological Projects Ltd, 25A Eaton Square, Terenure, Dublin 6W.

Site type: 18th-century quay wall

ITM: E 592953m, N 878496m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 54.654592, -8.109200

The site occupies an area measuring 35m east–west by 34m that lies on the west side of Quay Street and fronts onto the river estuary to the west. The first edition OS map shows that the late 18th/early 19th-century quay wall crosses the west side of the site but is now hidden behind more modern reclamation.

Three trenches were mechanically excavated in April 2000. Bedrock stepped down from 1.4m to 3.5m below modern ground level from east to west. It was overlain by water-deposited silt, which contained 18th-century finds. The top of this deposit lay at 2m below modern ground level. A large stone wall crossed the centre of the site parallel to the later 18th-century one. Its top stood to a maximum height of 1m below modern ground level.

The site and wall were subsequently fully exposed and recorded during archaeological excavation undertaken in early June 2000. It was the earliest structure on the site. The height of the bedrock at the east side of the site suggested that this was the first quay wall built in the area. The wall survived up to 2m in height and was built against one of the bedrock steps. Its rear face was poorly built, but the west face, which faced the water, was finely wrought of large blocks of stone. Eighteenth-century deposits occurred in places beneath the rear face and also against both sides of the wall. It is hoped that the wall will be rebuilt at a higher level in the proposed development.

2002:0416 - Donegal Castle, Donegal, Donegal

County: Donegal Site name: Donegal Castle, Donegal

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 93:13(01) Licence number: 02E0496

Author: Fionnbarr Moore, Dúchas: The Heritage Service, Dún Scéine, Harcourt Lane, Dublin 2.

Site type: Tower-house, manor house

ITM: E 592844m, N 878479m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 54.654439, -8.110892

Between 30 April and 27 November 2002 small-scale excavations in relation to service trenches at Donegal Castle took place. Initially two service trenches (T1 and T2) were excavated within the 17th-century manor house attached to the western side of the 15th-century tower-house.

T1, for a water pipe, started 2m inside the ground-floor doorway and extended as far as the northern corner of the kitchen area, beyond the fireplace in the north wall. It was excavated to a depth of 0.23m and averaged 0.25m wide. The top 0.2m comprised a modern fill material known as Barnesmore gravel, beneath which was a black organic layer containing delft, a clay bottle-stopper etc., all post-medieval. Some roof slates were mixed in with this, however, and may be from the original roof of the manor house.

T2, for drainage, extended across the interior of the manor house from inside the ground-floor doorway to the north wall, where it linked up with a 17th-century drainage outlet. The trench was 0.6m wide and 0.4m deep. A black organic layer at a depth of 0.12–2m covered a drain that ran north–south and appeared to be contemporary with the manor house. The top of the drain was stone lined, but the drain itself was an unlined earth-cut channel, dug into a compact yellow clay. This yellow layer contained fragments of wall plaster, mortar and two clay-pipe stems. The drain was oriented north–south and exited through a point in the north wall 0.78m east of the north-west window. The exit for the drain is box shaped, 0.24m wide and 0.12m high, and is also at the level of the yellow clay layer, which may represent the original floor level or a working level when the manor house was being built.

Another trench (T3) for a new drain to link up with T2 was excavated along the front of the manor house. An extension to this trench (T5) was excavated beyond the south-west corner of the manor house as far as the path inside the bawn wall on the west. T3 was 0.6m wide and 0.4m deep. The top 0.4m consisted of modern fill containing post-medieval material, including delft and the base of an 18th- or 19th-century wine bottle. This modern layer overlay a brown clay layer that may be contemporary with the manor house. Internally glazed pottery of probable 17th-century date turned up at this level. T3 was widened in front of the tower-house by another 0.56m to allow a new slab to replace a broken one over an old drain. Under the broken slab was a thin layer of black organic soil, c. 0.08m deep. Beneath this was a layer of clay, c. 0.08m deep, containing shell and fragments of mortar. This in turn overlay a layer of loose stones and clay that may have been introduced as a fill for levelling outside the manor house. This layer was 0.22m deep and overlay a compact brown layer that produced 17th-century pottery and the bowl of a 17th-century clay pipe, beside the door jamb. T5, the extension to T3, though dug to the same depth, was not as complex. The topsoil had a large shell content, mixed with modern delft, and overlay a black organic layer.

T4, for an electric cable, started 3.4m out from the east corner of the tower-house, by the bawn wall. It ran west and north along the tower-house walls and entered the manor house at its eastern end. It was 0.3m wide and 0.32m deep and on the line of a modern drainpipe that used an old exit in the bawn wall. The ground was quite disturbed, and, although more 17th-century pottery was recovered, nothing else of archaeological significance was noted.

Two trenches for manholes were opened to the north-west of the tower-/manor house, on sloping ground that runs down to the River Eske. The first (MH1) was dug against the exterior wall of the northern arm of the manor house. It measured 1m by 1m, and the upper 0.71m of fill contained numerous roots in a loose black clay, the stem of a clay pipe and some modern delft. Beneath this was a slaty clay that in turn overlay bedrock. The trench revealed three courses of foundation walling built up from the underlying bedrock.

The second manhole trench (MH2) was just below the break of slope down to the river, 3.5m from the centre of the north wall of the tower-house. It measured 2m by 1m and ranged in depth from 1.3m at the north to 0.8m at the south. Toward the western end of the trench, at a depth of 0.2m, human remains (G2) were discovered in a slab-lined, lintelled grave, the floor of which appeared also to be paved with slabs. The grave was greatly disturbed by root action, and the lower part of the skeleton was missing. It may have been disturbed when the castle was being built, as some of the stones overlying the burial were cut stone, probably from the castle, and some of the slabs lining the burial had mortar adhering to them, again suggesting disturbance in the past. The burial had an east-west orientation with the head to the west and appeared to be that of a child or juvenile. Two other possible graves (G1 and G3) ran parallel to G2, to the east and west. They did not contain articulated remains but fragments of human bone mixed with large concentrations of animal bone and oyster shells, i.e. refuse from the castle mixed in with human remains as a result of root action. Further fragments of human remains (G4) that lay beneath G1 may indicate layering within the graves and the possibility that this is a cemetery. A possible fifth grave in the north-east corner of the cutting appeared to have been deliberately emptied and incorporated in a drain for the tower-house. There appears to have been considerable disturbance of the graves when the tower-house was constructed. The fact that out of five possible graves only two contained articulated remains suggests that bones may have been gathered up and placed elsewhere when works related to the building of the castle uncovered them. The graves are typical of the early medieval lintel type, which implies that the castle was constructed on a pre-existing cemetery. Unglazed red earthenware was found on top of the late medieval rubble fill that covered the graves, and a sherd of Bellarmine ware was found mixed with castle rubble at the base of the trench.

A pipe-trench was excavated between MH1 and MH2, 0.42m wide and 0.9m deep. Again, root action had caused much disturbance, and, although animal bone was plentiful, fragments of human bone were also found in this area, suggesting that human remains disturbed during the building of the castle may have been reinterred.

2003:401 - Bridge Street, Donegal, Donegal

County: Donegal Site name: Bridge Street, Donegal

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 03E0560

Author: Billy Quinn, Moore Archaeological & Environmental Services Ltd, Corporate House, Ballybrit Business Park, Ballybrit, Galway.

Site type: No archaeological significance

ITM: E 592824m, N 878513m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 54.654745, -8.111195

Testing was carried out at Bridge Street, Donegal, on 24 April 2003. The proposed development consists of the demolition of existing premises and the construction of a restaurant. The site is located at the western end of The Diamond, on Bridge Street. It is within the zone of archaeological potential for Donegal and in the vicinity of Donegal Castle.

The groundworks were carried out by a mechanical excavator using a grading bucket. The trench was dug to an average depth of 2.89m by 1.5m wide running in a general north-east/south-west orientation. Two culverts were observed. The culverts were still in use and were located 0.5m below the maximum depth required for development; they are considered to be of little archaeological significance. No further finds or features of archaeological interest were exposed during the course of the testing.

2003:404 - Main Street Upper, Donegal, Donegal

County: Donegal Site name: Main Street Upper, Donegal

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 02E1809

Author: Alan Hayden, Archaeological Projects Ltd, 27 Coulson Avenue, Rathgar, Dublin 6.

Site type: No archaeological significance

ITM: E 592453m, N 878496m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 54.654585, -8.116947

Two test-trenches were mechanically excavated on the small site in Donegal town in January 2003. Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered.

2007:369 - Milltown, Mullans and Donegal Town, Donegal

County: Donegal Site name: Milltown, Mullans and Donegal Town

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 07E0526

Author: Eoghan Kieran, Moore Archaeological & Environmental Services, Corporate House, Ballybrit Business Park, Galway.

Site type: Urban

ITM: E 593110m, N 878654m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 54.656015, -8.106779

A programme of archaeological assessment and testing was carried out at Milltown, Mullans and Donegal town in May 2007. The proposed development entailed the construction of a mixed-use town centre development. The development was close to the historic centre of Donegal and so a pre-development assessment of the scheme was recommended. Initially the programme of testing had envisaged the excavation of eighteen test-trenches throughout the site. Owing to restrictions caused by the presence of services and existing buildings, only sixteen trenches were excavated. No archaeological deposits or features were recorded during testing.

2008:304 - Donegal, Donegal

County: Donegal Site name: Donegal

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 08E0170

Author: Alan Hayden, Archaeological Projects Ltd, 27, Coulson Avenue, Rathgar, Dublin 6.

Site type: No archaeological significance

ITM: E 592953m, N 878246m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 54.652346, -8.109194

The site occupies six fields on a steep slope on the southern side of Donegal town. Nineteen test-trenches were mechanically excavated on the site on 10–12 March 2008. Apart from cultivation furrows and modern drains nothing of definite archaeological potential was noted.

2015:368 - Diamond, Donegal Town, Donegal

County: Donegal Site name: Diamond, Donegal Town

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 14E0462

Author: Fiona Beglane

Site type: Late medieval ditch and post-medieval urban

ITM: E 592887m, N 878461m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 54.654278, -8.110225

The project involved the monitoring of groundworks associated with the development of an existing retail shop in Donegal Town. The work was a requirement of the planning grant of permission issued under Planning Register No. 14/51162. During monitoring a shell-filled ditch and other associated archaeological features were identified, which have been radiocarbon dated to the later medieval period, predating the Ulster Plantation.

The site is located c.60m south of Donegal Castle, which was built c.1474 by Hugh Roe O'Donnell. The north-western boundary of the site appears to follow the line of an outer bawn or enclosure around the castle, so that when this enclosure was in use the site would have been immediately outside the castle grounds. The main archaeological feature that was identified was a ditch (C13) at a different alignment to the existing and demolished buildings and the property boundaries, and which predated 19th-century cobbling and wall footings. The base of the ditch contained marine shells, mainly periwinkles, but with some cockles and oysters also present. There was occasional animal bone mixed with the shell and in the overlying mid-brown sandy fills of the ditch. No pottery or other diagnostic material was found in any of the fills. Radiocarbon dating indicates that the ditch fills probably date to the late 15th or early 16th centuries, although a date in the first quarter of the 17th century is also possible.

To the west of ditch C13 were deposits of charcoal, shells, and a small shell-filled pit. It is likely that these were directly associated with ditch C13, since they are on the same stratigraphic level. To the northeast of ditch C13 was cut C41, with its associated fill of shells and a possible stone pot-boiler. Again, these are on the same stratigraphic level as the ditch and radiocarbon dating indicates that

again this feature probably dates to a similar period as the ditch. The archaeobotanical evidence suggests that this was a boundary or drainage ditch in a rural or undisturbed urban location, so given the location it may have separated two properties. In the earliest period it was evidently used for waste disposal, with the rate of disposal reducing in Phase 2, and the ditch gradually filling up. The Phase 1 ditch and its Phase 1 and 2 contents as well as the other associated archaeological features clearly predate the Ulster Plantation and the laying out of the Diamond in the early 17th century, and instead relate to the period in which the O'Donnells occupied nearby Donegal Castle. While the shell deposits are dated to Phase 1, both Phases 1 and 2 yielded similar faunal remains and show a continuity of later medieval butchery styles, demonstrating that material from this later phase represents debris from continued occupation.

One of the most interesting aspects is the fish bone assemblage from Phases 1 and 2, which indicates the presence of deep-water fishing boats in Donegal in the 15th to early 17th centuries. It is likely that the large cod and ling bones found in this excavation are physical evidence of this historically-attested locally-run fishing fleet.

The stratigraphic, artefactual and butchery evidence clearly indicate that Phases 3 to 6 are 19th to 20th century in date and present an entirely different picture to the earlier deposits. In this time period there is cartographic evidence that the property functioned as a hotel, and the cartographic and excavated evidence suggests that the now-demolished buildings at the rear of the property were developed through the 19th and early 20th century as outhouses. The presence of a Schweppes aerated water bottle dated to 1840-1860 and found in a gap between stonework in the wall separating two of these outhouses provides a date for these particular buildings and suggests that the hotel was already in operation by this time. During these later phases of activity the butchery evidence suggests that bones were being boiled on the premises to make stock or soup and the waste was then being disposed of in a relatively careless manner. A number of bones had been gnawed by dogs and rodents, and a number of rodent bones were also recovered from this period. This suggests poor standards of hygiene existed in the area to the rear of the property during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

5.3 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

A review of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage produced the following results for the subject area of Donegal:

Four Masters Memorial, The Diamond, DONEGAL, Donegal, DONEGAL

Reg No: 40843016

Rating: Regional

Categories of Special Interest: Architectural, Artistic

Original Use: Monument

In Use As: Monument

Date: 1935 - 1940

Coordinates: 192923, 378414

Description

Freestanding four-sided obelisk/memorial, erected 1934, having cruciform-plan capping/finials to top with gabled/triangular projection to the centre of each face. Constructed of ashlar sandstone and set on ashlar sandstone plinth with chamfered ashlar sandstone coping over. Inscribed with names of authors of the Annals of the Four Masters to base; inscribed Celtic cross motif and Celtic interlacing motifs to each face and having Celtic interlacing motif to each gabled projection. Located in the pedestrianised central square in the centre of the Diamond, Donegal Town.

Appraisal

This attractive and conspicuous memorial monument dominates the centre of The Diamond, Donegal Town, and acts as a focal point in the centre of the town. It was erected to commemorate the four monks (Michael O'Clery, Peregrine O'Clery, Peregrine Duigan and Fearfeasa O'Mulconroy) from the Franciscan friary in Donegal Town that compiled the Annals of the Four Masters between 1630 and 1636 (the Annals themselves are thought to have been compiled at Rosfriar), and whose names are incised into the monument (one to each face). Its form is enhanced by the quality of the ashlar sandstone (from nearby Mountcharles) used in its construction and by the appealing incised Celtic cross and Celtic interlacing motifs that adorn each face of the memorial and give it a vaguely Romanesque character. It was designed by the Dublin architectural firm O'Callaghan and Giron, and was unveiled in 1938 by the Bishop of Raphoe, The Most Revd. Dr MacNeely, at the bequest of Patrick M. Gallagher, solicitor and noted historian, who bequeathed £5,000 for the erection of a monument in honour of the Four Masters in Donegal Town. The monument was estimated to cost £980 with the remainder of the bequest used for the erection of an altar and furnishings at the new Catholic church (Church of the Four Masters - see 40843029) at Donegal Town. This monument is of high artistic merit and is an integral element of the built heritage of the town.

5.4 County Development Plan

The Donegal County Development Plan (2018-2024) was consulted for the townland of Donegal in Donegal town. The plan contained the following Record of Protected Structures for the subject area:

RPS No.: 40801102 Methodist Church Detached four-bay single-storey over basement Methodist church with neo-Norman façade surmounted by bell cote

RPS No.: 40801105 Eske Bridge Three arch road bridge over river Eske built c. 1840 with Ashlar voussoirs to segmental arches, cutwaters, piers, vaults and parapets, with footpath extension downstream to west having concrete beam spans and concrete block supports, c. 1975.

RPS No.: 40801107 Presbyterian

Church Detached three-bay single-storey T-plan Presbyterian church with bellcote to entrance gable built 1866.

RPS No.: 40801108 Court House Detached four-bay single-storey courthouse, built c. 1835 with two-storey over basement offices and former cells to rear and projecting bay to north street, with split-level two storey extension and single-storey porch c. 1890, now also used as a Chamber of Commerce.

RPS No.: 40801109 Donegal Parish Church Detached late-Georgian Gothic-style Church of Ireland church with tower to south-west built 1825-8; with chancel added to north-east c. 1890, with internal gallery and transept to north side.

RPS No.: 40801110 AIB Bank Terraced five-bay two-storey bank-built c.1860 with Ashlar balcony over central entrance door

5.5 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 in metres to the PDA
DG093-013----	Historic Town	DONEGAL, GLEBE (Donegal ED)	592881	878402	0m

DG093-013001-	Castle	DONEGAL	592862	878546	c.100m N
DG093-013002-	Religious house – Franciscan Friars	GLEBE (Donegal ED)	592566	878030	c.500m SW
DG093-013003-	Church	GLEBE (Donegal ED)	592625	877987	c.500m SW
DG093-013005-	Graveyard	GLEBE (Donegal ED)	592625	877987	c.500m SW
DG093-013006-	Bawn	DONEGAL	592862	878546	c.100m N
DG093-013007-	House - 16th/17th century	DONEGAL	592862	878546	c.100m N
DG093-013008-	Burial Ground	DONEGAL	592882	878562	c.100m N
DG093-013009-	Bridge	DONEGAL	592788	878526	c.100m NNW

RMP No.: DG093-013----

Class: Historic town

Townland: DONEGAL, GLEBE (Donegal ED)

Description: Described in the Urban Survey of Donegal as 'The town is located at the head of Donegal Bay overlooking the wide shallow estuary of the river Eske. The placename is derived from Dun na Ngall, "the fort of the foreigners". These "foreigners" are usually presumed to be the Vikings who were active around the coast of Donegal in the mid ninth century and again in the 920s and 930s. The nature of this fort and whether or not it represents Scandinavian settlement remain unknown (Bradley & Dunne 1989, 30). Donegal rose to prominence in the later middle ages as one of the principal residences of O'Donnell lords of Tirconnell. The castle (DG093-013001-) was constructed in or around 1474 by Hugh Roe O'Donnell (d. 1505) at much the same time as the Franciscan friary (DG093-013002-) was established a short distance to the south. In 1566 Sir Henry Sidney described the castle as "one of the greatest that ever I saw in Ireland in any Irishman's lands and would appear in good keeping; one of the fairest situated in good soil and so nigh a portable water as a boat of ten tons could come within twenty yards of it". Increasing English pressure to gain a foothold in Donegal caused it to be burned in 1588 so that it could not be used as a garrison fort. The English force instead garrisoned the friary. In 1592, when Red Hugh O'Donnell returned after his escape from Dublin Castle, the English garrison was forced to flee and both castle and friary were rebuilt. The landing of Dowcra's forces, under Niall garbh O'Donnell, in 1601 resulted in

the capture of the friary and the return of a garrison which Red Hugh O'Donnell failed to eject because it could be provisioned directly by sea. After the flight of the earls in 1607 and the escheat of the county, the land around Donegal town was granted to Capt Basil Brooke, who had been active in the Ulster wars. Brooke began to settle the land and in 1611 Donegal was described by Pynnar as follows: We found a fair bawn built, with flankers, a parapet, and a walk on the top 15 feet high. Within the bawn is a strong house, built by Captain Basil Brooke....Many families of English, Scottish, and Irish are inhabiting the town, who built them good copled houses after the manner of the Pale (Butlin 1977, 89). On 13 March 1612 Brooke received a grant: To hold a Thursday market and a fair on the feast of St Peter, and the day after, yearly at Donegal; with courts of pie-powder; power to appoint a clerk of the market, etc. rent 6s. 8d.; No person to sell goods by retail within 3 miles of the castle of Donegal, unless they were planted there by the said Basil, or were inhabitants of the said town of Donegal, on forfeiture of the said goods; he to set apart a convenient place for the site of the said town to be built; for the market-place, and for the church and church-yard; the said borough to consist of 20 burgesses, besides cottagers and other inferior inhabitants, to be accommodated with houses and lands within four years; 30a to be appointed for the Common to be called the burgess-field, with 2a. More, viz. half an acre for the building of a public school and one and a half for the exercise of the scholars (Ir. Rec Comm 1830, 219-20). As a result of this grant Brooke succeeded in attracting sufficient settlers and the town was incorporated on 17 February 1613. The town was never particularly large and in the census of c. 1659 its adult population was given as 24 English and Scots together with 71 Irish making a total of 95. In 1689 the town was burned by Jacobites under the Duke of Berwick but he failed to capture the castle (Bradley & Dunne 1989, 31-2).

The town of Donegal is described in the Urban Survey as 'The town was laid out around a triangular diamond placed to the south of the castle. Three streets led from the diamond: Bridge St, Main St and Quay St. Tyrconnell St is obviously an intrusion into this layout. The burgage plot pattern still survives within the town and it is very clear on the O.S. 25" map. In 1612 Basil Brooke was granted the right to hold a weekly market at Donegal. The diamond was evidently the market place of the new town. Pynnar's account of 1611, quoted above, indicates that the settlers were building houses in the town after the manner of the Pale. This presumably indicates that some were half-timbered while others were stone built. Nothing remains of pre-1700 housing within the town' (Bradley & Dunne 1989, 33-4).

Excavation licence number 00E0697

Monitoring was carried out by Declan Moore of Moore Archaeological and Environmental Services Ltd on the site of the proposed conversion and extension to the rear of the AIB building at the Diamond, Donegal, Co. Donegal. Monitoring was carried out between 6 and 28 October 2000.

The site is bounded to the west by a high wall, separating it from a roadway and the Eske River. It is located on a gently rising slope. To the north and south it is bounded by the Abbey Hotel and the Central Hotel respectively. Bedrock was sealed by a series of compact, yellow/brown, sandy clays, which in turn underlay mixed deposits of dark brown silt and gravel with frequent inclusions of red brick. This deposit appears to represent deliberate deposition to level up the existing slope and was subsequently used as a yard and later as a parking area. This deposit was overlain by a layer of rounded cobbles and tarmac. The site was truncated throughout by a number of modern pipelines and was heavily disturbed. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed. (Excavations Bulletin 2000)

Excavation licence number 00E0243 and ext.

The site occupies an area measuring 35m east-west by 34m that lies on the west side of Quay Street and fronts onto the river estuary to the west. The first edition OS 6-inch map shows that the late 18th/early 19th-century quay wall crosses the west side of the site but is now hidden behind more modern reclamation. Three trenches were mechanically excavated by Alan Hayden, of Archaeological Projects Ltd in April 2000. Bedrock stepped down from 1.4m to 3.5m below modern ground level from east to west. It was overlain by water-deposited silt, which contained 18th-century finds. The top of this deposit lay at 2m below modern ground level. A large stone wall crossed the centre of the site parallel to the later 18th-century one. Its top stood to a maximum height of 1m below modern ground level. The site and wall were subsequently fully exposed and recorded during archaeological excavation undertaken in early June 2000. It was the earliest structure on the site. The height of the bedrock at the east side of the site suggested that this was the first quay wall built in the area. The wall survived up to 2m in height and was built against one of the bedrock steps. Its rear face was poorly built, but the west face, which faced the water, was finely wrought of large blocks of stone. Eighteenth-century deposits occurred in places beneath the rear face and also against both sides of the wall. It is hoped that the wall will be rebuilt at a higher level in the proposed development. (Excavations Bulletin 2000)

Excavation licence number 00E0697 ext.

Monitoring was carried out by Declan Moore of Moore Archaeological and Environmental Services Ltd on the site of the proposed conversion and extension of the AIB building on the Diamond, Donegal town. Phase 1 of the proposed development entailed the excavation of foundation trenches and new drains to the rear of the existing building (Excavations 2000, No. 171). The second phase of monitoring involved the demolition of existing structures to the rear of the main bank building and involved no further excavations. Phase 3 involved the reduction of the floor in the existing building and subsequent excavation of two column bases. The site is bounded to the

west by a high wall, separating the proposed development from a roadway and the Eske River. It is on a gently rising slope. To the north and south, the Abbey Hotel and the Central Hotel respectively bound the site. Monitoring was carried out on 30 July 2001. Bedrock was sealed by a series of dark greyish brown sandy silts, which in turn underlay mixed deposits of dark brown silt and gravel with frequent inclusions of red brick and flecks of mortar. This deposit underlay modern concrete flooring. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed during the course of monitoring. (Excavations Bulletin 2001)

Excavation licence number 02E0851

Monitoring by Christopher Read of North West Archaeological Services Ltd for Donegal Main Drainage is continuing. A substantial area in and around the town has been excavated to date, including a portion within the river. A number of early modern and potentially post-medieval finds have been retrieved, but no archaeological features or deposits have been revealed to date. (Excavations Bulletin 2002)

The Diamond, Donegal

Excavation licence number 04E0537

Monitoring of foundation trenches by David Sweetman for an extension to a premises showed that the site was originally a swamp and had been filled in and built on in the 20th century. (Excavations Bulletin 2004)

WATER STREET BRIDGE, DONEGAL

Excavation licence number 04E0109

Monitoring was carried out by Declan Moore of Moore Archaeological & Environmental Services Ltd (Moore Group), at Water Street Bridge, Donegal, during April 2004. The proposed development entails replacement of the existing bridge. The site is within the zone of archaeological potential for Donegal town and in the vicinity of Donegal Castle. Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered during monitoring works. Stratigraphy at the site comprised loose gravels overlying brittle shale bedrock. (Excavations Bulletin 2004)

THE DIAMOND / CASTLE ST., DONEGAL TOWN

Excavation Licence No.03E0232

Archaeological testing carried out by Richard Crumlish under licence no. 03E0232 revealed no archaeological features.

BRIDGE ST., DONEGAL TOWN

Excavation Licence No. 03E0560

Archaeological testing carried out by Billy Quinn identified no archaeological features.

Test excavation and monitoring of excavations associated with the Donegal broadband project were carried out by Dominic Delany of Dominic Delany & Associates under licence No. E2067 from August 2006 to April 2007. Prior to development, a series of seven test-trenches were excavated along Bridge Street and Castle Street in the environs of Donegal Castle. A potential medieval deposit was encountered near the south-east angle tower of the bawn wall. It consisted of grey, dark-brownish silt that contained animal bone, marine mollusc shells and a single green-glazed medieval strap handle. This deposit extended from 0.4m beneath the street surface to the base of the excavated test-trench (0.95m beneath the street surface) and extended for 2.7m. The deposit was not uncovered during subsequent hand excavation of the reduced-depth broadband trench. The excavation phase of the project involved the opening of a series of trenches throughout the town centre and its surrounding infrastructure. All of the trenches were located along roads, either in the carriageway proper or in the adjoining verge or footpath. There were no river crossings other than at existing bridges. The trenches were 0.6m wide and were excavated to a standard depth of 0.9m in carriageways and 0.6m in verges/footpaths. Junction boxes (1.25m²) were excavated where two or more trenches intersected and at regular intervals along long straight sections. Other than the deposit uncovered on Castle Street, no further archaeological features, finds or deposits were uncovered (Bennett 2009, 582).

Phase 2 of archaeological investigations was undertaken by James McKee of Archaeological Development Services Ltd under licence No. 05E0895ext. in February 2007 in advance of development of lands at Ardlenagh and Lurganboy, Co. Donegal. Although located c. 2km south of Donegal town (DG093-013----), the site was situated within the limits of the zone of archaeological potential of the town and therefore an archaeological condition was placed on the planning permission for the development. Twelve trenches were excavated across the confines of the site (NGR 192511/376480). In general the stratigraphic sequence of the site was characterised by topsoil, up to 0.6m deep, immediately overlying natural on the crest, slope and base of the hill. A former land boundary, backfilled in the 19th/20th centuries, was recorded along the base of the hill. Nothing of archaeological significance was found (Bennett 2010, 75).

RMP No.: DG093-013001-

Class: Castle - tower house

Townland: DONEGAL

Description: Donegal Castle is a National Monument (No.174) in State care.

Hugh Roe O'Donnell, who died in 1505, is credited with having first erected a castle at Donegal (AFM 1505). The 'old castle' and a 'new tower' at Donegal are mentioned in a domestic conflict of 1564 (AFM 1564); the nature of this tower is uncertain. Two years later, the Lord Deputy, Sir Henry Sidney, described the castle as 'one of the greatest that ever I saw in Ireland in any Irishman's lands, and would appear in good keeping one of the fairest. . .' (Caulfield 1870-1, 22). Though burned in 1589, and partly demolished, possibly in 1595, to prevent it being garrisoned by English forces (CSPI 1588-92, 123; O'Rahilly 1927, 208), it must, soon after, have been repaired; it fell into the possession of the English in 1601 (Murphy Ed., 1895, 261, 281, 291). Whether or not it was subsequently repaired by Rory O'Donnell is unknown. Captain Basil Brooke, knighted in 1616, received a grant of the castle in 1611, had it renewed in 1620 and made permanent in 1623 (Hill 1877, 324; Petrie 1840, 186). He is described in 1611 as having 'a fair bawn built with flankers' within which was 'a strong house of stone' (Hill 1877, 514). The Coats of Arms on the over-mantel of the fireplace confirm that it was he who converted the whole, with the addition of a gabled wing, into a Jacobean manor-house. During the 1641 rebellion it was held by Sir Basil's heir, Henry Brooke, though Clanrickarde took it for a short period in 1651. Henry Brooke subsequently resided there (de Breffny and ffollott 1975, 44-5). It fell to decay in the 18th century and was placed in the guardianship of the Office of Public Works in 1898 (Leask 1932, 12). It is now a National Monument (no. 174).

For the purposes of clarity and to aid the description, the manor-house (DG093-013007-) is taken as attached to the W wall of the keep. The remains consist of a much altered tower-house (DG093-013001-) and adjoining early 17th century manor-house (DG093-013007-) at the NE end of a bawn (DG093-013006-). They are protected by the River Eske on the N and E. Two distinct building periods are evident. Little remains of the original O'Donnell keep above first floor level, the surviving features confirming it as a typical if not large tower-house of the later 15th/16th century period. Brooke's early 17th century alterations included the insertion of numerous mullioned windows with horizontal hood-moulds, a bay frontage about the original entrance and several fireplaces in the E wall. That he first altered the keep is indicated by the partly blocked-up N window in the W wall and at second storey level (see below); this is also borne out by the fact that the alterations to the keep were defensive in character. All the ground-floor windows are small and narrow and it is only at first-floor level, some 6m up, that the large mullioned windows are inserted. The architecture indicates that the manor-house was added soon after, and the same masons undoubtedly worked on both buildings. The walls of the four storey keep rise from battered lower courses. They are built of roughly-quarried blocks and some rubble laid in mortar and have ashlar quoins. The original ground-floor entrance was in the centre of the S wall and the lower section of the E chamfered jamb is in situ. Brooke added a bay front to this wall and fitted it

with three narrow windows. On the E of the original door is a small guard-chamber with a wall-press. On the W, a spiral stairs with twisted octagonal stone newel led to the upper apartments. The main chamber on the ground floor was vaulted N-S; only the S half survives. The vault was probably raised on wicker centering, at the springing of which are a number of corbels in the E and W walls and corresponding beam holes in the corners of the N and S walls. It was lighted on three sides by narrow windows set in sub-rectangular embrasures and had two deeply splayed loops in the W wall; all have 17th century inserted dressings and the embrasure to the N of the loops was enlarged re-using a chamfered, pointed door as an entrance to the manor-house. There is a chamber above the original S entrance and below first-floor level. It has a narrow window in the centre of the 17th century bay frontage and a circular pistol-loop in the W splay. A small garderobe chamber beside it on the E is entered by a lintelled door and has an embrasure of room-width set into the E wall of the keep with a corresponding chute, dropping to ground-floor level; the discharge opening is blocked.

The first-floor is entered from the stairs by a chamfered door with tudor-arched head and ornate stops; the arch chamfer is carved in relief with lozenge and pellet designs and the spandrels have a false relief foliage pattern. This room, undoubtedly the principal chamber in the 17th century house, was lighted by a large bay window in the S wall, now completely fallen, though in existence in the early 19th century (sketch in OS Memoirs), and a large four-light window with double transom in the W wall. The line of an earlier window embrasure is visible in the masonry to the N of the latter window. Opposite it, in the E wall, is the large Brooke fireplace whose overmantel rises to full room height. The pedestals are carved with cloisonné-like designs and the pilasters have ornate hinge-like strapwork with flower and foliage patterns on the sides. The fireplace jambs are carved with tasselled garlands hanging from a double chain and the mantel is decorated with a double festoon suspended from chain links, the ends of which are wrapped about a figure on either side of the fire-place; all in high relief. The frieze comprises alternate plain and strapwork panels. The overmantel is divided into two large panels by three sets of inverted double consoles, each carved with a human mask and projecting leaf curling down the face of the console; the N console is missing and a mullion or transom fragment inserted. The left-hand panel bears the armorial escutcheon of Brooke impaling those of his wife, Leicester; the right hand panel bears the Brooke arms alone. Beside the fireplace on the N is a small window, set in a subrectangular embrasure. This floor undoubtedly had an E-W cross wall for there is another smaller fireplace at the N end of the E wall. It has moulded stop-chamfered jambs flanked by pilasters with false relief strapwork patterns and the lintel is carved with two opposing fish-like creatures; the moulded mantelpiece is broken out on decorated corbels over the pilasters and projecting keystone. This fireplace may be in the original entrance to a mural stairs. The remains of such are visible on the floor above

descending in that direction. Leask noted that there might have been a staircase in the NE angle but it was then blocked-up and exploration was impossible on account of the defective condition of the masonry (1932, 13). This room is lit by two two-light windows in the N wall, the E having a transom. The tudor-arched door with rebuilt, blunt-pointed rear-arch in the W wall communicated with the second floor of the manor-house; the masonry indicates that there was probably an original window embrasure in this position. The second floor was probably divided into at least two rooms and subsequent to the Brooke alterations must have communicated with the floors above and below by a wooden staircase. There are two fireplaces in the E wall and between them a window embrasure with descending mural stairs in the N ingoing. The N window in the W wall was partly blocked up to accommodate the roof line of the manor-house. This probably indicates the two-period nature of Brooke's alterations; the keep was first converted into a fortified dwelling and the manor-house then added. There is a wall-press in the E and W corners of the second floor.

The main N and S gables of the altered keep were at third-floor level and each had a three-light transomed window; only the E ingoing of the former and the lower half of the latter survive. The E and W walls had each three smaller gables; the N and S of the former contained fireplaces and were crowned with chimney stacks. Each of the remaining gables contained a three-light transomed window; only the central W gable window is complete. The water spouts between the gables are supported on deco-rated corbels. There remains the whole of one (the SW) of the four heavy square bartizan-like turrets supported on decorated corbels. W of the manor-house are the NW fragmentary remains of a building with battered lower courses incorporating a blocked-up discharge shaft. The masonry and construction are very similar to that in the O'Donnell keep and they are possibly coeval. Some lengths of the bawn wall with splayed loops survive on the E, S and W, which together with the SW gatehouse-tower are probably not earlier than the 17th century. The other sections of enclosing wall, particularly on the W and S, probably stand on original foundations. The two-storey gate-tower has a bartizan above the SE corner. The present external entrance is possibly modern, the original access being from the parapet walk on the E where there is a pointed doorway; it is fitted with numerous loops.

The above description was derived from the 'Archaeological Survey of County Donegal. A description of the field antiquities of the County from the Mesolithic Period to the 17th century.' Compiled by: Brian Lacey with Eamon Cody, Claire Cotter, Judy Cuppage, Noel Dunne, Vincent Hurley, Celie O'Rahilly, Paul Walsh and Seán Ó Nualláin (Lifford: Donegal County Council, 1983). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated.

Between 30 April and 27 November 2002 a number of narrow trenches were archaeologically excavated (02E0496) in advance of the laying of service pipes and cables. Two trenches were excavated within the 17th-century manor house (DG093-013007-). Roof slates were found which

may be from the original roof of the manor house, and a yellow clay layer, which may represent the original floor level or a working level when the manor house was being built. A trench excavated along the E side and SW corner of the manor house produced 17th-century pottery and the bowl of a 17th-century clay pipe, and another trench which extended close to the walls of the tower-house (DG093-013001-) and the E end of the manor house at its eastern end, also produced 17th-century pottery. Evidence for an early medieval burial ground (DG093-013008-), which had been disturbed during the construction of the castle, was found in the area to NW of the tower house on sloping ground that runs down to the River Eske. (Moore 2004, No 0416).

RMP No.: DG093-013002-

Class: Religious house - Franciscan friars

Townland: GLEBE (Donegal ED)

Description: Donegal Friary is a National Monument in State care (No.175). It was founded for the Franciscan Observant friars by Aodh Rua O' Donnell and his wife Nuala O' Brien, the date of commencement of the building was 1473 or 1474, or less probably 1472 (Mooney 1954-5, 20). It survived intact until 1588 when English forces pillaged it and, soon afterwards, garrisoned the buildings. They were driven out by Red Hugh O' Donnell in 1592 and the friars returned and repaired the place. In 1601, it was again seized by English forces commanded by the renegade Niall Garbh O'Donnell. During the ensuing siege of the friary by Red Hugh O'Donnell, a mysterious explosion and fire wrecked the buildings. In the following year, Red Hugh was succeeded by his brother Rory as O'Donnell and Earl of Tirconnell and before the latter's departure for Spain, in 1607, he had set about repairing the friary for the Franciscans. The friary was granted in 1607 to Sir Basil Brooke and the Church was subsequently used for Protestant worship (Mooney 1952, passim).

Though the explosion and fire of 1601 were without doubt responsible for the fragmentary condition of the ruins, the prolonged use of the friary as a place of burial (DG093-013005-) in modern times has raised the ground level (as much as 1.75m in places) and obscured much detail. The limits of many of the buildings were disclosed in the excavations carried out by the OPW when conserving the remains and some sections were raised to present ground level to mark important features (See Leask 1952, 53-7).

The arrangement of the buildings accords with the usual Franciscan layout and consists of a church on the S with domestic buildings ranged around a central cloister on the N. The walls are built of roughly dressed blocks and split stone with some rubble, and have ashlar quoins and dressings. The church, comprised chancel, central tower, aisled nave and transept, and is unusually long, c. 44m by c. 6.5m internally. The chancel is the best preserved section of the ruin. The battered lowered

courses of the E gable are demarcated by a chamfered string course which returns along the E end of the S wall. Only the jambs and splayed ingoings of the E window remain. The recess in the interior gable face at the foot of the window was probably for a reredos structure. S of the recess is a piscina-cum-wall-press; the niche has chamfered jambs and probably had a central mullion. The remaining four windows in the S wall are represented solely by jambs and sills. The two central windows were partly built up and reduced from three to two lights. The window on the E, over the sedilia, had two lights and that on the W may have had a similar number; the latter retains some blocking at the base of the surviving ingoing. Fragmentary sections of tile sacristy walls adjoining the N and E walls of the chancel survive. A door in the chancel N wall communicated with the E range of domestic buildings and further to the W under the tower another door led to the S ambulatory of the cloister. About midway along the N wall of the church a short projection of cross-wall undoubtedly indicates the position of a tower (see Murphy 1895, 35). The deep rectangular recess beside it may have been for a tomb. The remains of a spond pillar at the W end of the nave indicate the line of the arcade which divided the nave and S aisle. The transept is represented by the S gable and E foundation return of an altar recess. The remains of the S wall of a chapel (Leask 1952, 54-5) are no longer visible.

The cloister court was small c. 19.4m by 20.6m in size. Though only sections of the N and E arcades remain, there is sufficient evidence to indicate the general layout. Each arcade comprised two groups of five pillars set either side of a central pier which was buttressed on the court face. Five pillars survive on the N and seven on the E. The former narrow, mullion-like pillars have 'corresponding chamfered round-headed arches. The latter are dumb-bell-like with paired octagonal shafts linked by a plate which projects through the shaft on the court side; the capitals are moulded but the bases are hidden below present ground level. The arches of the E arcade are bluntly pointed. Paired shafts on the W face of the SE pier indicate that the S arcade probably had similar pillars to those on the E. On the N and E sides (and probably on the W) of the cloister the arcades supported the walls of the storeys above and the ambulatories were thus enclosed within the adjoining ranges and ceiled by the timber floors of the upper apartments. The S arcade supported a lean-to roof against the N wall of the church. The line of this roof is visible in the E wall of the ambulatory above a round-headed, chamfered arch of two orders; the inner order which rose from spiked corbels (now damaged) is missing.

The extent of the E range is defined by foundations on the N and a small section of wall at the SE. There is a corner of some other building immediately N of this range. The dormitory probably occupied the full length and width of the upper storey. There are the remains at ground-floor level of the garderobe on the N, and the night stairs, partly incorporated in the thickness of the N wall of the chancel, survives, on the S. Small loops afford glimpses of the chancel from the stairway and

first-floor landing level. The N range is represented by footings which have been raised to ground level and a section of the N wall with a blocked-up door; only the jambs remain. There is no visible trace of the window recorded by Leask to the W (1952, 54). At the junction of the W and N ranges are three separate short flights of steps, which communicated with the upper apartments. The chamber on the NW, possibly the kitchen, preserves a wall-press and a narrow rectangular window in the S wall. The NW corner of this chamber has been eroded away by the sea. Little remains of the W range. There is a curious narrow passage at its S end; it is partly built into the N wall of the nave and has a small splaying squint. The function of this passage is unclear.

RMP No.: DG093-013003-

Class: Church

Townland: GLEBE (Donegal ED)

Description: Church ruins: Vegetation and burial plots almost totally obscure the scant remains of this church and only the lower courses of sections of the S and E walls can be distinguished from the grave surrounds into which they have been incorporated. Described in the Urban Survey as 'After the Franciscan Friary was granted to Sir Basil Brooke in 1607 the friary buildings subsequently functioned as a parish church (Lacy 1983, 331). It is quite likely that this was succeeded by the small church in the graveyard, known simply as Glebe Church. This in turn was succeeded by the present C of I parish church which was built in 1825 (Rowan 1979, 238). It was probably at this date that the church was moved into the town and placed opposite the castle (DG093-013001-) (Bradley & Dunne 1989, 34).

RMP No.: DG093-013005-

Class: Graveyard

Townland: GLEBE (Donegal ED)

Description: Donegal Friary (DG093-013002-): founded for the Franciscan Observant friars by Aodh Rua O' Donnell and his wife Nuala O' Brien, the date of commencement of the building was 1473 or 1474, or less probably 1472 (Mooney 1954-5, 20). It survived intact until 1588 when English forces pillaged it and, soon afterwards, garrisoned the buildings. They were driven out by Red Hugh O' Donnell in 1592 and the friars returned and repaired the place. In 1601, it was again seized by English forces commanded by the renegade Niall Garbh O'Donnell. During the ensuing siege of the friary by Red Hugh O'Donnell, a mysterious explosion and fire wrecked the buildings. In the following year, Red Hugh was succeeded by his brother Rory as O'Donnell and Earl of Tirconnell and before the latter's departure for Spain, in 1607, he had set about repairing the friary for the Franciscans. The friary was granted in 1607 to Sir Basil Brooke and the Church was subsequently

used for Protestant worship (Mooney 1952, *passim*). The site is now a National Monument (No. 157).

Though the explosion and fire of 1601 were without doubt responsible for the fragmentary condition of the ruins, the prolonged use of the friary as a place of burial in modern times has raised the ground level (as much as 1.75m in places) and obscured much detail. The limits of many of the buildings were disclosed in the excavations carried out by the OPW when conserving the remains and some sections were raised to present ground level to mark important features (See Leask 1952, 53-7).

RMP No.: DG093-013006-

Class: Bawn

Townland: DONEGAL

Description: Donegal Castle: Hugh Roe O'Donnell, who died in 1505, is credited with having first erected a castle at Donegal (AFM 1505). The 'old castle' and a 'new tower' at Donegal are mentioned in a domestic conflict of 1564 (AFM 1564); the nature of this tower is uncertain. Two years later, the Lord Deputy, Sir Henry Sidney, described the castle as 'one of the greatest that ever I saw in Ireland in any Irishman's lands, and would appear in good keeping one of the fairest. . .' (Caulfield 1870-1, 22). Though burned in 1589, and partly demolished, possibly in 1595, to prevent it being garrisoned by English forces (CSPI 1588-92, 123; O'Rahilly 1927, 208), it must, soon after, have been repaired; it fell into the possession of the English in 1601 (Murphy Ed., 1895, 261, 281, 291). Whether or not it was subsequently repaired by Rory O'Donnell is unknown. Captain Basil Brooke, knighted in 1616, received a grant of the castle in 1611, had it renewed in 1620 and made permanent in 1623 (Hill 1877, 324; Petrie 1840, 186). He is described in 1611 as having 'a fair bawn built with flankers' within which was 'a strong house of stone' (Hill 1877, 514). The Coats of Arms on the over-mantel of the fireplace confirm that it was he who converted the whole, with the addition of a gabled wing, into a Jacobean manor-house. During the 1641 rebellion it was held by Sir Basil's heir, Henry Brooke, though Clanrickarde took it for a short period in 1651. Henry Brooke subsequently resided there (de Breffny and ffollott 1975, 44-5). It fell to decay in the 18th century and was placed in the guardianship of the Office of Public Works in 1898 (Leask 1932, 12). It is now a National Monument (no. 174).

For the purposes of clarity and to aid the description, the manor-house (DG093-013007-) is taken as attached to the W wall of the keep. The remains consist of a much altered tower-house (DG093-013001-) and adjoining early 17th century manor-house (DG093-013007-) at the NE end of a bawn (DG093-013006-). They are protected by the River Eske on the N and E. Two distinct building periods are evident. Some lengths of the bawn wall with splayed loops survive on the E, S and W, which together with the SW gatehouse-tower are probably not earlier than the 17th century. The

other sections of enclosing wall, particularly on the W and S, probably stand on original foundations. The two-storey gate-tower has a bartizan above the SE corner. The present external entrance is possibly modern, the original access being from the parapet walk on the E where there is a pointed doorway; it is fitted with numerous loops.

RMP No.: DG093-013007-

Class: House - 16th/17th century

Townland: DONEGAL

Description: Donegal Castle: Hugh Roe O'Donnell, who died in 1505, is credited with having first erected a castle at Donegal (AFM 1505). The 'old castle' and a 'new tower' at Donegal are mentioned in a domestic conflict of 1564 (AFM 1564); the nature of this tower is uncertain. Two years later, the Lord Deputy, Sir Henry Sidney, described the castle as 'one of the greatest that ever I saw in Ireland in any Irishman's lands, and would appear in good keeping one of the fairest. . .' (Caulfield 1870-1, 22). Though burned in 1589, and partly demolished, possibly in 1595, to prevent it being garrisoned by English forces (CSPI 1588-92, 123; O'Rahilly 1927, 208), it must, soon after, have been repaired; it fell into the possession of the English in 1601 (Murphy Ed., 1895, 261, 281, 291). Whether or not it was subsequently repaired by Rory O'Donnell is unknown. Captain Basil Brooke, knighted in 1616, received a grant of the castle in 1611, had it renewed in 1620 and made permanent in 1623 (Hill 1877, 324; Petrie 1840, 186). He is described in 1611 as having 'a fair bawn built with flankers' within which was 'a strong house of stone' (Hill 1877, 514). The Coats of Arms on the over-mantel of the fireplace confirm that it was he who converted the whole, with the addition of a gabled wing, into a Jacobean manor-house. During the 1641 rebellion it was held by Sir Basil's heir, Henry Brooke, though Clanrickarde took it for a short period in 1651. Henry Brooke subsequently resided there (de Breffny and ffolliott 1975, 44-5). It fell to decay in the 18th century and was placed in the guardianship of the Office of Public Works in 1898 (Leask 1932, 12). It is now a National Monument (no. 174). For the purposes of clarity and to aid the description, the manor-house is taken as attached to the W wall of the keep. The remains consist of a much altered tower-house (DG093-013001-) and adjoining early 17th century manor-house (DG093-013007-) at the NE end of a bawn (DG093-013006-). They are protected by the River Eske on the N and E. Two distinct building periods are evident.

The Brooke manor-house (DG093-013007-) is essentially a three storey T-shaped addition of five gabled bays, having a wide shaft and small arms adjoining the keep. Some skew-corbels and coping remain on the gables. It is markedly less defensive than the altered keep, in having mullioned windows of many lights at ground-floor level. Only the shell of the manor-house remains. There are two entrances in the ground floor; both are older work than the 17th century manor and might

well have been taken from the nearby Franciscan Friary (DG093-013002-). The short S arm adjoining the keep may have housed the staircase and the entrance door has chamfered jambs and a round head. The door to the W is of two orders and has multi-moulded stop-chamfered jambs and a pointed head; beside it on the W, a jamb and sill of a single-light window have been incorporated in the wall fabric. The blocked-up opening in the W gable probably indicates the position of a window. There is a large kitchen fireplace with adjoining oven in the N wall. The W wall of the N arm of the house has a chamfered two-light ogee-headed window; the mullion is missing and the jambs and sills are 17th century in date. The heads are earlier and may also have been removed from the Friary. The upper storeys of this arm each contains a small room; that on the second floor has a small fireplace in the N gable. The main entrance to the manor-house is at first-floor level in the S wall, the steps to which have entirely disappeared. The architrave of the round-headed doorway is carved with a strapwork pattern. To the W of the door is a single-light window, on the E a four-light transomed window and opposite the latter a large fireplace with tudor-arch in the N wall; this was undoubtedly the main entrance hall. There is another fireplace in the N wall to the W and a similar example in the W gable; these indicate the position of two other rooms on this floor. The second floor had a five-gable frontage each with a two-light window. The entrance to the first floor of the keep was from this level. W of the manor-house are the NW fragmentary remains of a building with battered lower courses incorporating a blocked-up discharge shaft. The masonry and construction are very similar to that in the O'Donnell keep and they are possibly coeval. Some lengths of the bawn wall with splayed loops survive on the E, S and W, which together with the SW gatehouse-tower are probably not earlier than the 17th century. The other sections of enclosing wall, particularly on the W and S, probably stand on original foundations. The two-storey gate-tower has a bartizan above the SE corner. The present external entrance is possibly modern, the original access being from the parapet walk on the E where there is a pointed doorway; it is fitted with numerous loops.

RMP No.: DG093-013008-

Class: Burial ground

Townland: DONEGAL

Description: Located immediately to W of Donegal castle/tower house (DG093-013001-). Between 30 April and 27 November 2002 a number of narrow trenches were archaeologically excavated (02E0496) close to the tower house, in advance of the laying of service pipes and cables. One of the trench (2m by 1m; D 1.3m at N, 0.8m at S) was opened to the north-west of the tower house, just below the break of slope down to the river. It revealed a slab-lined, lintelled grave, the floor of which appeared also to be paved with slabs. The grave was greatly disturbed, and the lower part of

the skeleton was missing. The burial had an E–W orientation, with the head to the west, and appeared to be that of a child or juvenile. There was evidence of two other possible graves, lying parallel at the east and west. They did not contain articulated remains, but the fill included fragments of human bone mixed with concentrations of animal bone and oyster shells, i.e. refuse from the castle mixed in with human remains as a result of root action. Further fragments of human remains lay beneath the slab-lined grave, and may indicate layering within the graves. A possible fifth grave in the north-east corner of the cutting appeared to have been deliberately emptied and incorporated into a drain for the tower-house. There appears to have been considerable disturbance of the graves when the tower-house was constructed; it is possible that the builders of the castle gathered up the bones from the disturbed graves and placed them elsewhere. The graves are typical of the Early Medieval lintel type, which implies that the castle was constructed on a pre-existing burial ground (Moore 2004, No. 0416). The full extent of the burial ground is unknown.

RMP No.: DG093-013009-

Class: Bridge

Townland: DONEGAL, DRUMCLIFF, MULLANS (Donegal ED)

Description: As part of the Donegal Main Drainage scheme the possible pier belonging to a medieval or post medieval bridge was recorded at the foot of Donegal Castle (DG093-013001-) under excavation licence no. 02E0851. The pier of this bridge consists of cut blocks of limestone, at one time bonded by mortar. The mortar has mostly disintegrated, and the entire structure has been badly damaged by tree root action, leaving it in a very precarious and unstable state (Read, C. 2002, 4).

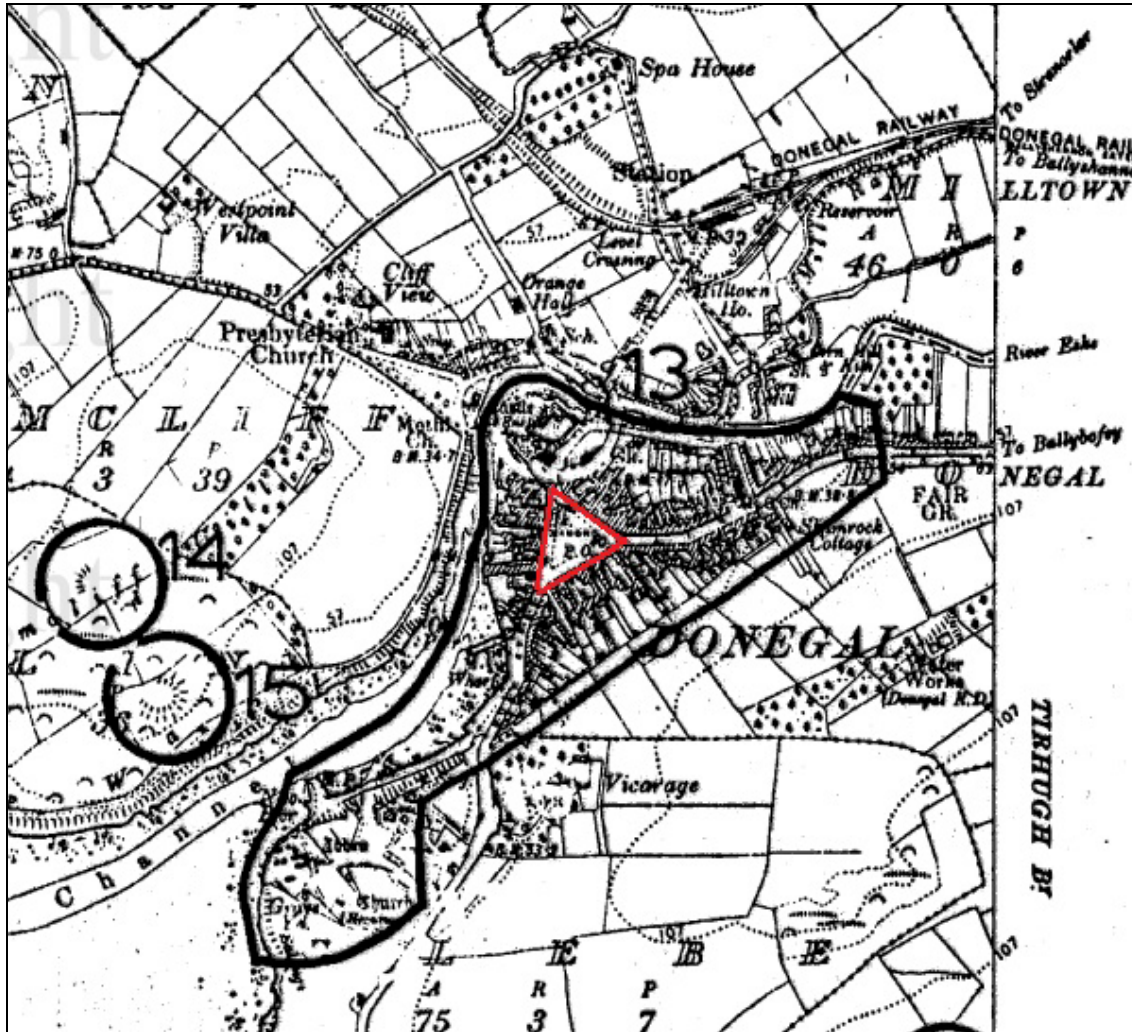


Figure 4: Record of Monuments and Places Map 093 Donegal.

5.6 The National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files

The topographical survey for the study area of Donegal and environs was consulted and produced the no results.

5.7 Aerial Photography

Aerial photography of the development area was consulted. The main source was Google Earth imagery taken in June 2018, which clearly showed an aerial view of the Diamond and the surrounding streetscape of Donegal town. The recorded monuments and architectural heritage features are present within the vicinity. The Diamond is visible as a paved triangular area at confluence of three roads of traffic and encompassing the core of the town. No additional archaeological features were noted in the aerial photography.

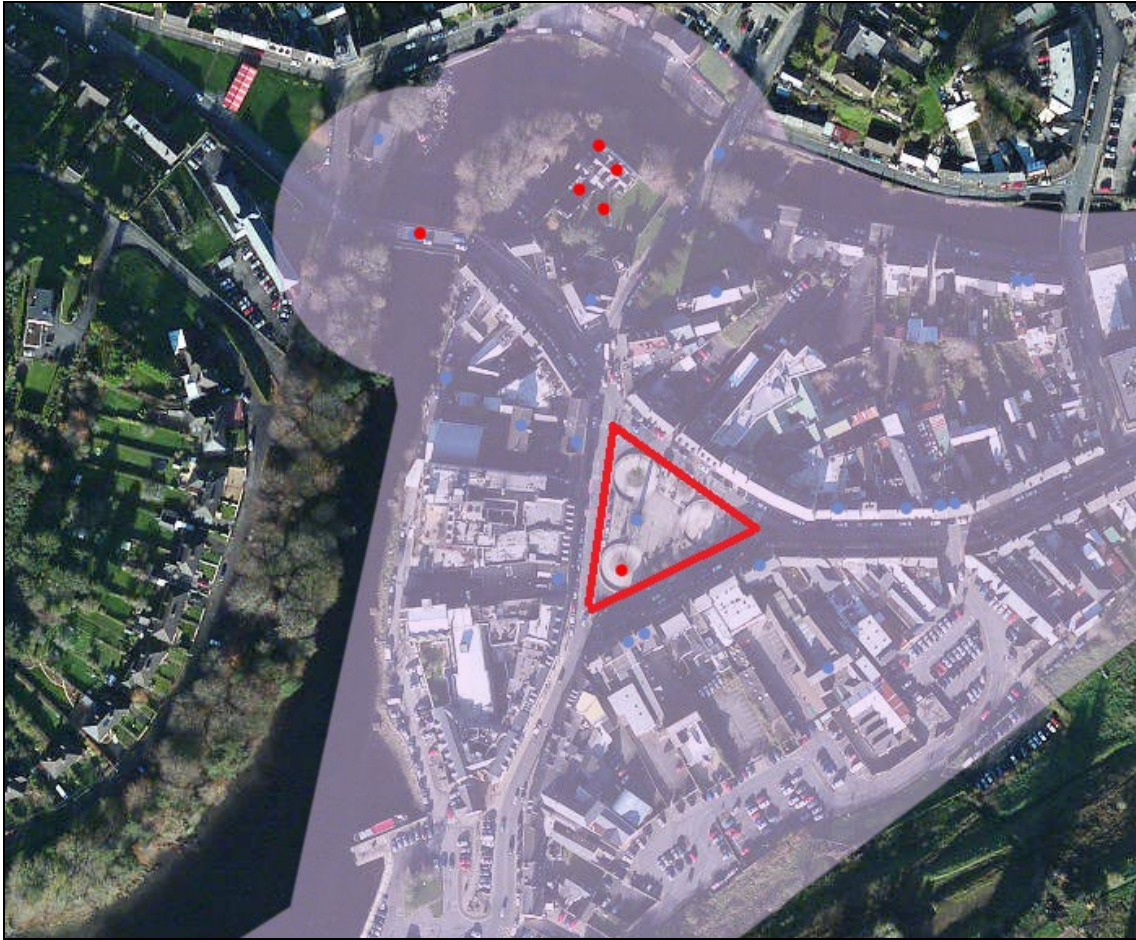


Figure 5: Aerial photograph of the PDA outlined in red.

5.8 Cartographic Evidence

The following section considers major maps of County Donegal with reference to the townland of Donegal including the subject site.

5.8.1 Ordnance Survey 1838 edition (6" map)

The subject site can be clearly seen on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of County Donegal dated to the 1830's. The streetscape resembles that which survives today. The recorded monuments centred on Donegal Castle can be seen to the north of the Diamond. The triangular space now occupied by a landscaped public space which is named as on this map as the 'Diamond'. Of note is a 'pump' but this feature no longer survives. No additional features of an archaeological nature are present on this early map.

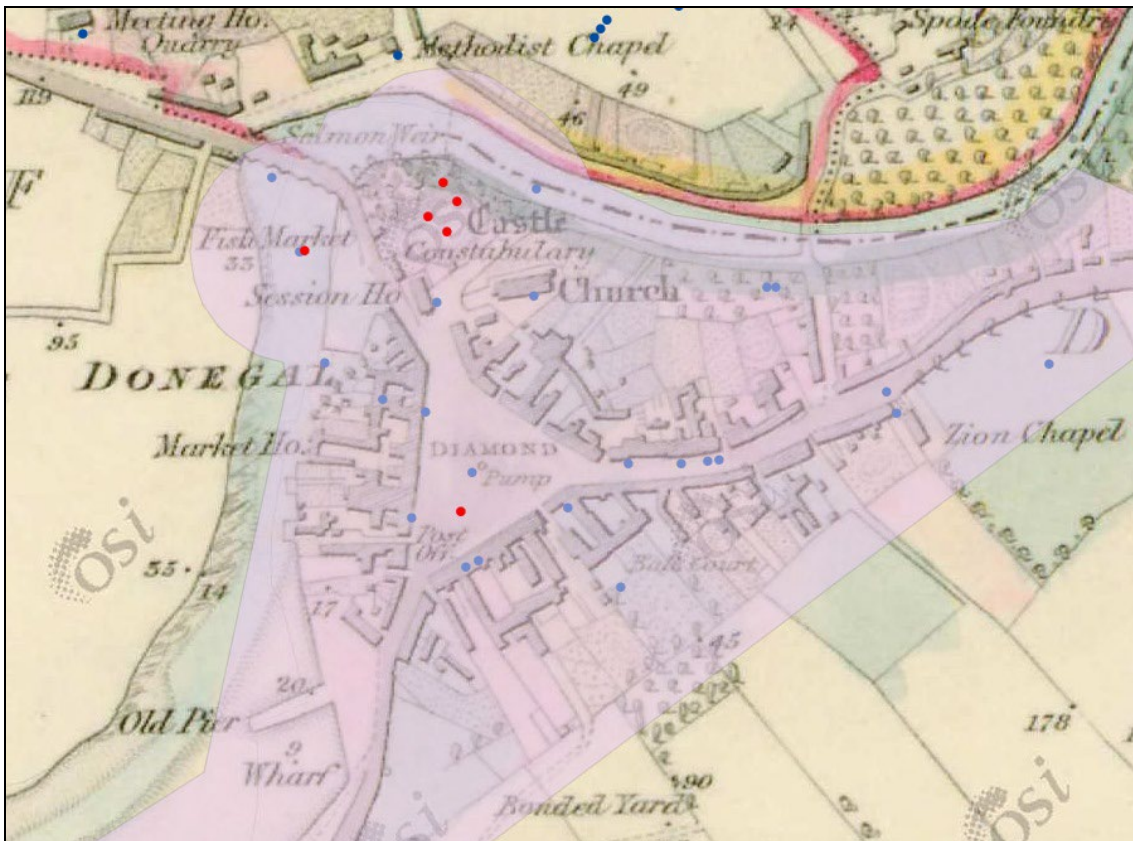


Figure 6: Ordnance Survey Map c. 1838 of Donegal town

5.8.2 Ordnance Survey c. 1900 edition (25" map)

The subject site can be clearly seen on the second edition Ordnance Survey map dated to c. 1900. The notable difference between this and the earlier map is the presence of additional buildings on all side of the Diamond and the Diamond itself is indicated by a broken line around a triangular space. Several hotels as well as a market house are indicated on this map but no detail of features within the Diamond are indicated. No additional features of an archaeological nature are present on this early map.

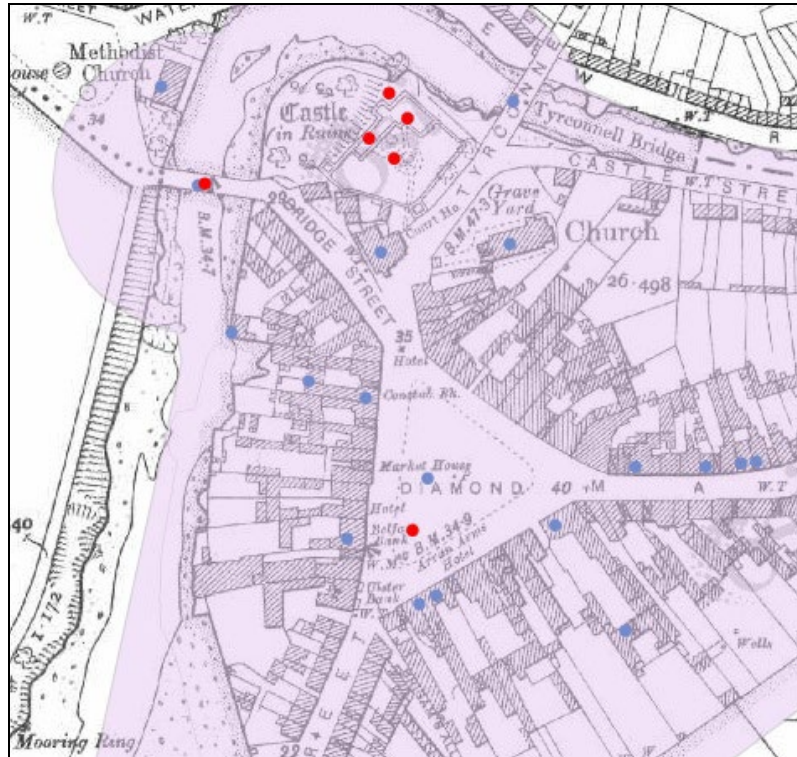


Figure 7: Ordnance Survey Map c.1900 of Donegal town.

6 RESULTS OF THE SITE INSPECTION

The site inspection took place on Friday the 4th of February 2022. The site conditions were good during the site inspection, and all areas of the Proposed Development Area were fully accessible. The area was subject to a comprehensive site walkover and visual inspection to observe any potential archaeological features.

The Proposed Development Area comprised a large open triangular shaped space known as the Diamond. In the 1990s Donegal County Council paved and inserted semi-circular walled areas at the top of each angle of the triangle. There is a large stone monolith in the western area of the space, this is a memorial to the Four Masters and was constructed here of Mountcharles sandstone as a four-sided obelisk/memorial, erected 1934. The Diamond functioned as marketplace for fair days and is a focal area of the town. Three streets lined with buildings are on three sides of the Diamond and bound Main St, Bridge St, and Quay St. Donegal Castle can be seen from the Diamond and is located a short distance to the north. The Diamond is within the core of the Historic Town of Donegal, a medieval town which grew around the castle and Franciscan Friary that were built here in 1474. The streets of Donegal town including the Diamond reflect successive urban development here since the medieval period.

No features of archaeological significance were noted during the site inspection of the Proposed Development Area at the Diamond, Donegal.



Plate 1: NE facing view of the Diamond from Quay Street



Plate 2: North facing view of the interior of the Diamond showing the paved surface



Plate 3: SW facing view of the Diamond



Plate 4: SW facing view of the Diamond and the Four Masters Memorial



Plate 5: SW facing view of the detail of the paving with the semi-circular open area



Plate 6: North facing view of the Diamond and the street furnishing within

7 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The nature of the impacts is assessed with reference to the Glossary of Impacts provided in the Advice notes on Current Practices in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements, EPA, 2003, the draft Revised Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements, EPA, 2017.

7.1 Potential Direct Impacts

Direct negative impacts may occur where sites of archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage significance are located within the footprint of the proposed development, which would potentially be impacted upon by ground disturbances.

In relation to the proposed development, direct, physical impacts on the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage can manifest themselves in the following ways:

- Where an archaeological, architectural, or cultural heritage site, structure, monument, or feature is located within an area where works takes place and the works either intentionally or unintentionally entail the alteration or removal of all or part of the site, structure, monument or feature a direct, physical impact will occur.
- Direct, physical impacts can also occur in gaining access to the site. Where archaeological, architectural, or cultural heritage sites, structures, monuments, or features are intentionally or unintentionally removed or altered when transporting and/or facilitating access for machinery, equipment and/or materials to or from site a direct physical impact will occur; and
- There is the potential for direct, physical impacts on previously unrecorded archaeological and architectural sites, structures, monuments, or features.

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

7.1.1 Potential direct Impacts on Recorded Archaeological Monuments

No recorded archaeological monuments were identified within the proposed alteration works area. No topsoil stripping is proposed. There will be no direct negative impacts on the known cultural heritage resource.

7.1.2 Potential direct Impacts on unrecorded Archaeological Monuments

No features of archaeological potential were identified within the proposed alteration works area. Topsoil stripping is not proposed for this area. There is moderate to high potential for

direct negative impacts on previously unknown subsurface archaeological sites which would be vulnerable to damage because of the proposed works.

7.1.3 Potential direct Impacts Architectural Sites

No Protected Structures or NIAH site or previously unrecorded vernacular features are within the proposed afforestation areas. There will be no direct negative impacts on architectural sites.

7.1.4 'Do Nothing scenario'

In this instance, there would be the possibility of impact on potential unrecorded sub surface deposits.

7.1.5 'Worst Case' scenario'

In this case, the proposed alteration works could potentially negatively impact previously unknown sites resulting in the loss or damage of archaeological artefacts and features.

7.2 Potential Visual Impacts on Setting

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

7.2.1 Archaeology Sites

There are recorded archaeological sites/features listed in the Archaeological Survey of Ireland as being located within the proposed alteration works area with the subject site. Following a site inspection, as well as a review of online sources, there will likely be no visual impact on the setting of recorded archaeological sites by the proposed works.

7.2.2 Architectural Sites

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

8 CONCLUSION

The proposed works entail alteration works to the Diamond, a public space in the centre of Donegal town. The proposed works are in the historic core of the Historic Town of Donegal, a recorded monument RMP No.: DG093-013----. Located within the vicinity of the proposed works are numerous Recorded Monuments including Donegal Castle which is a National Monument.

The site inspection took place on Friday the 4th of February 2022. No additional finds or features of archaeological significance were noted during the site inspection.

The proposed works will have no direct impact, either physical or visual, on the Recorded Monuments in the direct vicinity.

However subsurface works associated with the construction of the proposed alterations to the Diamond may have a negative impact on any sub-surface archaeological remains that may survive below ground associated with the Historic Town.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed works may have a negative impact on subsurface archaeological material which may survive below ground and be associated with the Historic Town, a recorded monument RMP No.: DG093-013----. Therefore, an appropriate mitigation in the form of archaeological monitoring should be undertaken during all subsurface works.

It is recommended that should the proposed works be approved archaeological monitoring should be conducted by a suitably qualified archaeologist during replanting works should that involve subsurface works. It is recommended that an archaeologist conduct monitoring of any groundworks including drainage works to inspect the entire area for previously unrecorded sites, monuments, or artefacts of archaeological significance.

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.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) and the National Museum of Ireland.

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11 GLOSSARY OF IMPACTS

Glossary of Impacts from 'Advice Notes on Current Practice in the Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements.' Environment Protection Agency, 2003 (Pages 139-40).

Quality of Impacts

Positive Impact

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

Neutral Impact

A change which does not affect the quality of the environment.

Negative Impact

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

Significance of Impacts

Imperceptible Impact

An impact capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.

Slight Impact

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

Moderate Impact

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

Significant Impact

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

Profound Impact

An impact which obliterates sensitive characteristics.

Duration of Impacts

Short-term Impact

Impact lasting one to seven years.

Medium-term Impact

Impact lasting seven to fifteen years.

Long-term Impact

Impact lasting fifteen to sixty years.

Permanent Impact

Impact lasting over sixty years.

Temporary Impact

Impact lasting for one year or less.

Types of Impacts

Cumulative Impact

The addition of many small impacts to create one larger, more significant, impact.

'Do Nothing Impact'

The environment as it would be in the future should no development of any kind be carried out.

Indeterminable Impact

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

Irreversible Impact

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

Residual Impact

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

Synergistic Impact

Where the resultant impact is of greater significance than the sum of its constituents.

'Worst case' Impact

The impacts arising from a development in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail.