



# **John Purcell**

**Archaeological Consultancy**

**jparch.ie**

**Archaeological Assessment at**

**Lifford, Co. Donegal**

**February 2022**

**Client: Donegal Co. Co.**

## **Table of Contents**

### **1 Introduction**

### **2 Methodology**

2.1 Study Methodology – Desktop Survey

2.2 Site Inspection

2.3 Difficulties Encountered

### **3 Receiving Environment**

### **4 General Archaeological and Historical Summary**

4.1 Brief Archaeological Background

4.2 Archaeological Monuments

4.3 Previous Archaeological Works

### **5 Impact on the Archaeological Landscape**

5.1 Recorded Archaeological Monuments

5.2 Site Survey

5.3 Cartographic Evidence

5.4 Townland Names

5.5 Architectural Heritage

5.6 Archaeological Potential

### **6 Mitigation Strategies**

### **7 Conclusion**

## **List of Figures**

- Figure 1:** Location of Development
- Figure 2:** Site boundaries
- Figure 3:** Extract from the RMP for the development
- Figure 4:** First edition OS Map with the Site Marked
- Figure 5:** 25" OS Map with the Site Marked
- Figure 7:** Downe survey map for the area

## **List of Plates**

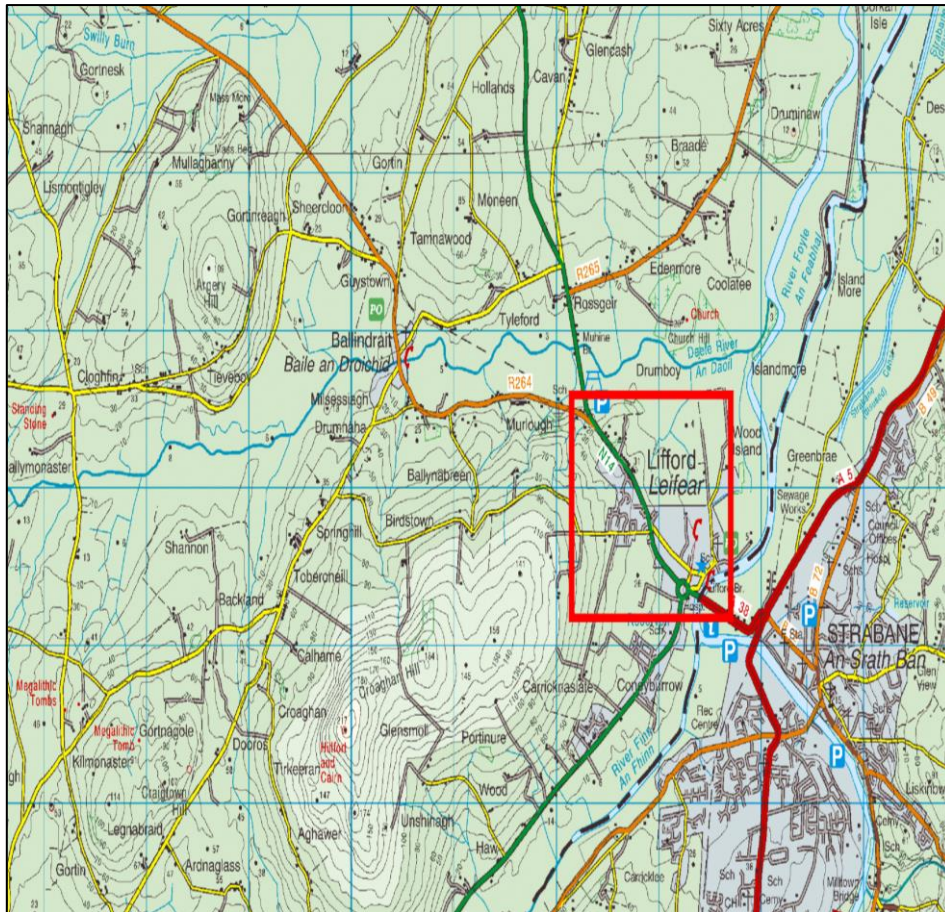
- Plate 1:** Looking northwest over the north of the site
- Plate 2:** Looking north over the site
- Plate 3:** Looking west over the proposed development
- Plate 4:** Looking south over the northern section of the site
- Plate 5:** Looking north over the proposed development
- Plate 6:** N14 at the northwest of the site
- Plate 7:** Small farmers yard within the site

## **1 Introduction**

This report assesses the impact of the proposed development of a landbank on the archaeological landscape of the site at Lifford, Co. Donegal and its environs. The report has been prepared by John Purcell Archaeology Consultancy and includes a desktop study and a site inspection. The desktop section of this report was compiled using: The Records of Monuments and Places; buildings of Ireland, Excavations Bulletin; historic maps; aerial photographs; place names and historic books and journals.

The recorded and potential cultural heritage resource within the proposed development site and the surrounding its boundary were assessed in order to compile a complete cultural heritage context.

Field walking was undertaken in February 2022 by John Purcell of John Purcell Archaeology Consultancy. John Purcell has been excavation licence eligible with the DAHC since 2002 and has worked consistently since then in the area of archaeology.



**Figure 1: Location of Development**

## **2 Methodology**

This report has been prepared having regard to the following guidelines:

- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government, 2018)
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects: Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (European Commission, 2017)
- Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports – Draft (EPA, 2017)
- National Monuments Acts, 1930-2014
- The Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Bill, 2006
- Heritage Act 1995

- Frameworks and Principles for the protection of Archaeological Heritage 1999
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments and the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000

## 2.1 Study Methodology – Desktop Survey

This assessment consists of a paper survey identifying all recorded sites within the vicinity of the proposed development and a site inspection. The methodology has been conducted based on the guidelines from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG).

The desktop survey undertaken consisted of a document and cartographic search utilising a number of sources including the following:

- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP); The RMP records known upstanding archaeological monuments, the original location of destroyed monuments and the location of possible sites identified through, documentary, cartographic, photographic research and field inspections.
- The RMP consists of a list, organised by county and subdivided by 6" map sheets showing the location of each site. The RMP data is compiled from the files of the Archaeological Survey.
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage; The inventory of architectural heritage lists all post 1700 structures and buildings in the country. This includes structures of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, social, scientific or technical importance.
- County Development Plans; The Development plan was consulted to ascertain if any structures listed in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and/or any Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). The Record of Protected Structures lists all protected structures and buildings in Meath. This includes structures of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, social, scientific or technical importance.
- Cartographic Sources; The following maps were examined: Down Survey, 1st edition Ordnance Survey Maps (1836-1846) and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey Maps (1908), Rocque Map and the Cassini Map.
- Literary Sources; Various published sources, including local and national

journals, were consulted to establish a historical background for the proposed development site. Literary sources are a valuable means of completing the written record of an area and gaining insight into the history of the environs of the proposed development. Principal archaeological sources include: The Excavations Bulletin; Local Journals; Published archaeological and architectural inventories; Peter Harbison, (1975). Guide to the National Monuments of Ireland; and O'Donovan's Ordnance Survey Letters.

- Previous archaeological assessments and excavations for the area were reviewed. This includes the 2009 geophysical survey and the subsequent archaeological testing undertaken in 2010.

A comprehensive list of all literary sources consulted is given in the bibliography.

## 2.2 Site Inspection

An archaeological field inspection survey seeks to verify the location and extent of known archaeological features and to record the location and extent of any newly identified features. A field inspection should also identify any areas of archaeological potential with no above ground visibility. Many monument types do not leave surface markers. Wooden sites such as prehistoric house or burials may only be recorded through excavation works.

## 2.3 Assessment Criteria

The criteria used to assess the significance of the impact of a development on an archaeological landscape, site, feature, monument or complex are defined as follows:

- **Profound:** Applies where mitigation would be unlikely to remove adverse effects. Reserved for adverse, negative effects only. These effects arise where an archaeological site is completely and irreversibly destroyed by a proposed development.
- **Significant:** An impact which, by its magnitude, duration or intensity, alters an important aspect of the environment. An impact like this would be where part of a site would be permanently impacted upon, leading to a loss of

character, integrity and data about the archaeological feature/site.

- **Moderate:** A moderate direct impact arises where a change to the site is proposed which though noticeable, is not such that the archaeological integrity of the site is compromised, and which is reversible. This arises where an archaeological feature can be incorporated into a modern-day development without damage and that all procedures used to facilitate this are reversible.
- **Slight:** An impact which causes changes in the character of the environment which are not significant or profound and do not directly impact or affect an archaeological feature or monument.
- **Imperceptible:** An impact capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.

### 2.3 Difficulties Encountered

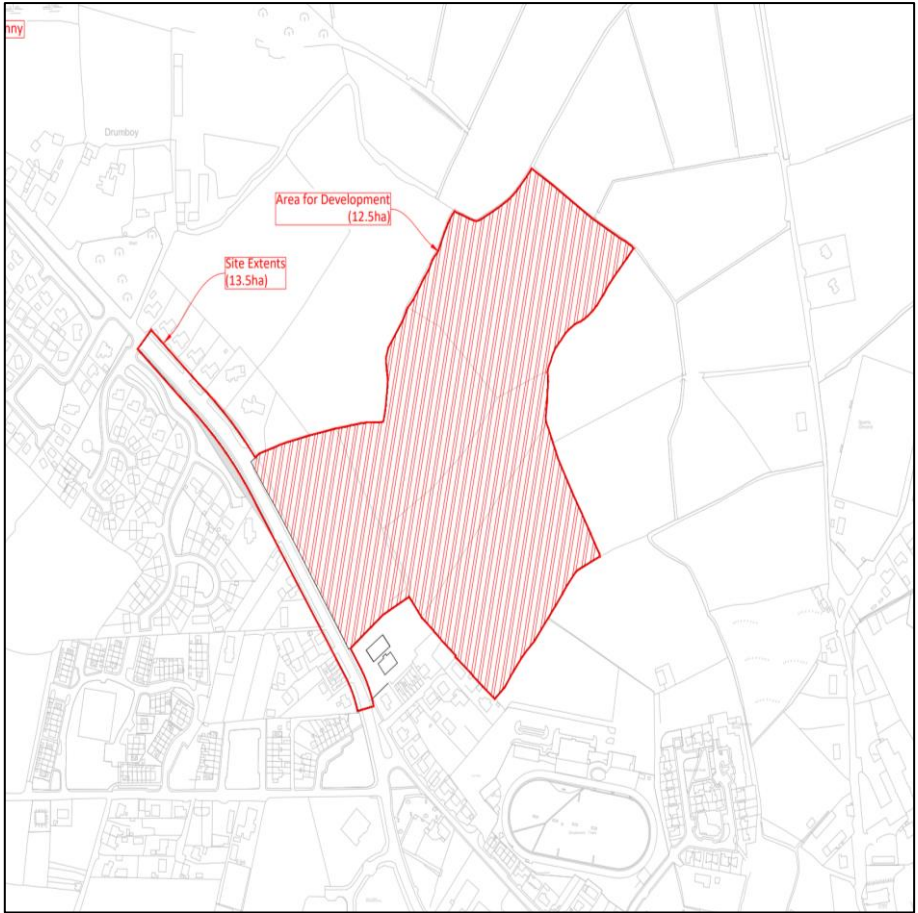
No difficulties that could hinder the archaeological assessment were encountered,

## 3 Receiving Environment and Proposed Development

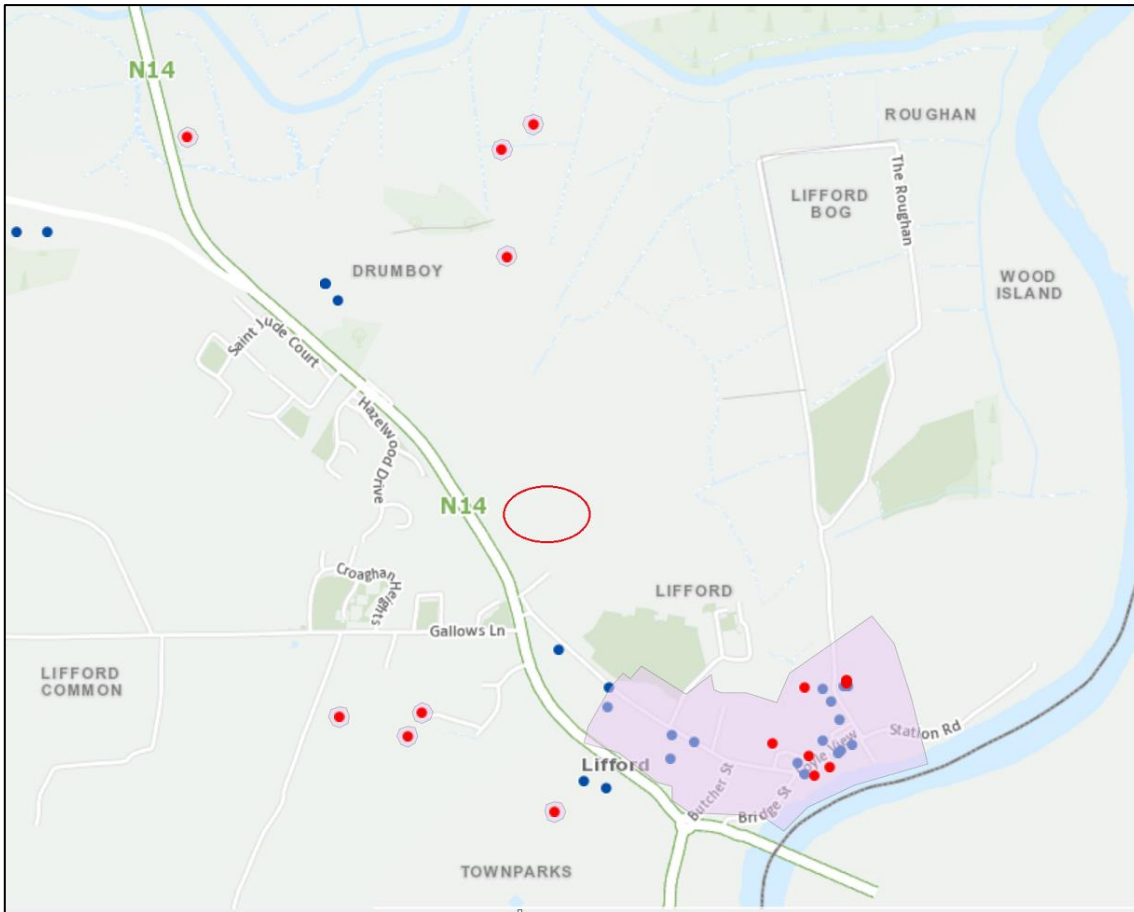
The proposed development will provide five serviced plots for future development. It is proposed that the site will be divided into five plots which will be occupied at a later date by light industrial units, a housing development of approximately 50 housing units and a recreational facility.

The study area is located to the northwest of the town of Lifford in the east of Co. Donegal. The proposed development is currently laid out in five interconnected fields delineated by native hedgerows. The site includes a small farmer yard with a concrete surface at the south (Plates 1-7). The site is located to the north of the N14. The town of Lifford extends to the south eastern boundary of the site. The study area is currently in use as pasture.





**Figure 2: Site boundary**



**Figure 3: Extract from the RMP for the development**

## **4 General Archaeological and Historical Summary**

### **4.1 Brief Archaeological Background**

#### **Prehistory**

The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) lists a number of prehistoric sites in Co. Donegal. The earliest recorded archaeology in the area dates from the Neolithic (4,200-2,500BC). At this stage communities became more stable with the introduction of agricultural practices. The more permanent settlement allowed communities to construct large ceremonial sites.

The bronze age marks the introduction of metal working to Ireland. This allowed for more efficient farming and hunting techniques. It also allowed for small industry and trade to take place between communities. Barrows are a common form of monument across in this area from this period. These are associated with the Bronze/Iron Age burial tradition (c. 2400 BC - AD 400) and are defined by an artificial

mound of earth or earth and stone, normally constructed to contain or conceal burials. These sites vary in shape and scale and can be variously described as bowl-barrow, ditch barrow, embanked barrow, mound barrow, pond barrow, ring-barrow and stepped barrow. The incidence and frequency of these sites in the area attests to the extent of prehistoric settlement in this area from earliest times. Prehistoric settlements sites are generally not visible at ground level and can only be uncovered as a result of ground works.

### **Iron Age to Early Medieval Period**

In late Bronze Age Ireland, the use of the metal reached a high point with the production of high-quality decorated weapons, ornament and instruments, often discovered from hoards or ritual deposits. The Iron Age however is known as a 'dark age' in Irish prehistory. Iron objects are found rarely, but there is no evidence for the warrior culture of the rest of Europe, although the distinctive La Tené style of art with animal motifs and spirals was adopted. Political life in the Iron Age seems to have been defined by continually warring petty kingdoms vying for power. These kingdoms, run on an extended clan system, had their economy rooted in mixed farming and, in particular cattle. Settlement was typically centred on a focal hillfort.

Another more domestic site common to the Bronze Age is the *fulachta fiadh*. These are located along the edges of streams or in damp areas. They consist of a mound of charcoal enriched soil with fragmented burnt rocks. They usually are accompanied by a wooden or stone lined trough. These were used seasonally possibly for cooking or may have been used for recreational purposes.

Settlement in the Early Medieval Period is defined by the ringfort. The country was a patchwork of competing kingdoms during this period numbering up to 150. Ringforts were a farmstead surrounded by one or more earthen banks. These are the commonest monument across Co. Donegal and have been frequently recorded in the area. These are generally located in areas with commanding views over the countryside to provide security.

The introduction of Christianity to Ireland in the fifth century had a profound impact on Gaelic society, not in the least in terms of land ownership and the development of churches and the development of a large number of religious houses. The earliest churches were constructed of wood and mortar and wattle walls. By the ninth and

tenth centuries these were being replaced by stone structures. These settlements became very important around the country and became small towns. Many of these sites were surrounded large earthen enclosures. Several early Christian Monuments are located in the wider vicinity of the site these include Holy Wells and Bullaun stones.

### **Historic Period**

Following the Norman Conquest of the country a series of Castles and boroughs were built across Co. Donegal. A series of medieval parish churches were also constructed across the area to service this growing population. A series of Anglo-Norman castles and towns were developed across the count.

### **Post Medieval Ireland**

Seventeenth century Ireland saw massive upheaval a result of the Confederate wars, the Cromwellian response and the Wars of the two kings. It is estimated that up to a third of the population was wiped out because of famine, disease and war. Soldiers were given land as payment resulting in further upheaval of the local population and the establishment of large estates. These came to dominate the landscape from this period onwards. Religious intolerance in other parts of Europe resulted in the expulsion of the Huguenot from France which were welcomed by the English Crown into Ireland. In Ulster the plantations expanded across the region during this period. This brought a new population to the area and led to the establishment of a series of towns across the region including Lifford.

### **Lifford Town**

'In common with most of Donegal's plantation towns Lifford was established due to its strategic location, at the meeting of the rivers Murne and Finn, and at the beginning of the River Foyle. There was no bridge at this stage and crossings were undertaken by ferry. The O'Donnells had built a castle in the fifteenth century on the Tyrone side of the river. The earl of Essex arrived here in 1574 and formally restored it to Hugh O'Donnell. In 1600 it was captured by Dowcra's forces, under the command of Niall garbh O'Donnell and the that it fell to the English. By 1600 there was a settlement in the vicinity of the fort described as : "some eighty houses set in a

plain green upon the river side and encompassed by an old ditch". Shortly after the flight of the earls Lifford was ear-marked for plantation and on 27 October 1611 the village of Liffer with the fort, "commonly called captain Brooke's Fort" and about 500 acres of land were granted to Sir Richard Hansard.

#### 4.2 Archaeological Monuments

The study area does not include any archaeological monuments, however a number of other monuments are recorded in the wider environs of the study area, the details of all these sites are listed below (all information taken from [archaeology.ie](http://archaeology.ie)).

DG071-008006-

Class: Fortification

Townland: LIFFORD

Described in the Urban Survey of Donegal (Bradley & Dunne 1989, 55) as 'Like most of Donegal's plantation towns Lifford owes its existence to its strategic location, at the meeting of the rivers Murne and Finn, and at the beginning of the River Foyle. There was no bridge and throughout the seventeenth century the river crossing was negotiated by ferry. Its strategic significance was evident before the plantation period, however, and it was here that the O'Donnells built a castle in the fifteenth century (this castle is located in Co. Tyrone). The earl of Essex arrived here in 1574 as part of his ill fated Ulster expedition and formally restored it to Hugh O'Donnell (Hayes McCoy 1976, 97). Ten years later, in 1584, Perrott proposed it for the site of an English garrison if Ulster was to be subdued. Perrott's proposals went unheeded, however, and it was not until 1600 when it was captured by Dowcra's forces, under the command of Niall garbh O'Donnell that it fell into English hands. By 1600 there was evidently some form of settlement in the vicinity of the fort. A contemporary account describes it as : "some eighty houses set in a plain green upon the river side and encompassed by an old ditch" (CSPI 1600-1, 93). Evidently the settlement was substantial enough by 1603 for Sir Henry Dowcra, governor of Lough Foyle, to be granted the right to hold a market there. Shortly after the flight of the earls Lifford was ear-marked for plantation and on 27 October 1611 the village of Liffer with the fort, "commonly called captain Brooke's Fort" and about 500 acres of land were granted to Sir Richard Hansard for 21 years. He received the grant on condition that within five years he should allot portions of land to 60 inhabitants for the erection of houses with gardens and 200 acres for a common (Ir Rec Comm 1830, 182). The fort was excluded from a new grant of 31 Jan 1612, when Hansard was given licence to hold a Monday market and two annual fairs, while the number of colonists he was to settle was halved to "30 persons, English or Scots, chiefly tradesmen to be the burgesses" (ibid. 206-7). Lewis (1837, ii, 260) adds that in addition he was to set

aside 100 acres for the keep of 50 horses, should His Majesty think proper to assign a garrison to the town. Hansard evidently invested a sizeable amount of his personal income in the town. By 1611 he had built some twentyone half-timbered houses and thirtyseven cottages of one hearth each were constructed about the same time (Rowan 1979, 347). In the same year, 1611, Pynnar described Lifford as having: "a good and strong fort built of lime and stone, with bulwarks, a parapet, and a large ditch of good depth cast above it on the river side, with a storehouse for victuals and munition, a gatehouse and a drawbridge.....There is another small fort in the town rampiered and ditched, about which are certain houses built of good timber after the English manor, which serve for the use of a gaoler and to keep prisoner...Upon view of the town we found it well furnished with inhabitants of English, Scottish, and Irish, who live by several trades" (quoted in Butlin 1977, 89).' (Bradley & Dunne 1989, 50-2). Nothing remains of the "good strong fort of lime and stone" mentioned in 1611. A plan of "the king's fort at Lifford", prepared about this time is in the library of Trinity College Dublin (Ms. 1209 (30)). The 1611 account, quoted above, mentions a second fort in the town but its whereabouts remains unclear' (Bradley & Dunne 1989, 55).

DG071-008003-

Class: Graveyard

Townland: LIFFORD

Clonleigh Parish Church (DG071-008001-): Erected under the will of Sir Richard Hansard and the foundations laid by 1622, the present church is of late 18th century appearance (Rowan 1979, 348).

DG071-008007-

Class: Wall monument - effigial

Townland: LIFFORD TOWN

Clonleigh Parish Church (DG071-008001-): Erected under the will of Sir Richard Hansard and the foundations laid by 1622, the present church is of late 18th century appearance (Rowan 1979, 348). In the S wall is a segment-headed recess containing two kneeling figures in Jacobean attire facing each other across a draped predieu — part of the monument of Sir Richard Hansard Kt. and Dame Anne, his wife (for whom see Loeber 1977-80, 238-9).

DG071-008----

Class: Historic town

## Townland: LIFFORD, TOWNPARKS (Clonleigh South ED)

Described in the Urban Survey of Donegal as 'Like most of Donegal's plantation towns Lifford owes its existence to its strategic location, at the meeting of the rivers Murne and Finn, and at the beginning of the River Foyle. There was no bridge and throughout the seventeenth century the river crossing was negotiated by ferry. The town is also located in an area of particularly good agricultural land and was described as early as 1623 as "seated in the richest soil of all the north, the country about it champaign" (Butlin 1976, 149). Its strategic significance was evident before the plantation period, however, and it was here that the O'Donnells built a castle in the fifteenth century (this castle is located in Co. Tyrone). The earl of Essex arrived here in 1574 as part of his ill fated Ulster expedition and formally restored it to Hugh O'Donnell (Hayes McCoy 1976, 97). Ten years later, in 1584, Perrott proposed it for the site of an English garrison if Ulster was to be subdued. Perrott's proposals went unheeded, however, and it was not until 1600 when it was captured by Dowcra's forces, under the command of Niall garbh O'Donnell that it fell into English hands. By 1600 there was evidently some form of settlement in the vicinity of the fort. A contemporary account describes it as : "some eighty houses set in a plain green upon the river side and encompassed by an old ditch" (CSPI 1600-1, 93). Evidently the settlement was substantial enough by 1603 for Sir Henry Dowcra, governor of Lough Foyle, to be granted the right to hold a market there. Shortly after the flight of the earls Lifford was ear-marked for plantation and on 27 October 1611 the village of Liffer with the fort, "commonly called captain Brooke's Fort" and about 500 acres of land were granted to Sir Richard Hansard for 21 years. He received the grant on condition that within five years he should allot portions of land to 60 inhabitants for the erection of houses with gardens and 200 acres for a common (Ir Rec Comm 1830, 182). The fort was excluded from a new grant of 31 Jan 1612, when Hansard was given licence to hold a Monday market and two annual fairs, while the number of colonists he was to settle was halved to "30 persons, English or Scots, chiefly tradesmen to be the burgesses" (ibid. 206-7). Lewis (1837, ii, 260) adds that in addition he was to set aside 100 acres for the keep of 50 horses, should His Majesty think proper to assign a garrison to the town. Hansard evidently invested a sizeable amount of his personal income in the town. By 1611 he had built some twentyone half-timbered houses and thirtyseven cottages of one hearth each were constructed about the same time (Rowan 1979, 347). In the same year, 1611, Pynnar described Lifford as having : "a good and strong fort built of lime and stone, with bulwarks, a parapet, and a large ditch of good depth cast above it on the river side, with a storehouse for victuals and munition, a gatehouse and a drawbridge.....There is another small fort in the town rampiered and ditched, about which are certain houses built of good timber after the English manor, which serve for the use of a gaoler and to keep prisoner...Upon view of the town we found it well furnished with inhabitants of English, Scottish, and Irish, who live by several trades" (quoted in Butlin 1977, 89). By 1622 the town had at least 54 houses and a male population of about 100, making it one of the more successful plantation boroughs in Ulster (Hunter 1981, 60-

1). Sir Richard Hansard died in 1619 and left an unusual bequest, recorded on his monument in Lifford parish church, making financial provision for the corporation (Hunter 1971, 55), for building a church and school, and for the salaries of the schoolmaster and the officers of the town. It is a remarkable demonstration of the founders interest in the welfare of his town. In the census of c. 1659 the adult population is given as 44 English and Scots, and 24 Irish making a total of 68' (Bradley & Dunne 1989, 50-2).

The physical layout of the town is described in the Urban Survey as 'The core of the seventeenth century Lifford was concentrated on the Diamond and on the street running SW from it towards the modern bridge, then the site of a ferry. It was presumably in this area that the twentyone houses, built for Sir Richard Hansard by 1611, were located. The presence of a burgage plot pattern on the street running NW from the town, past Ballyduff House, suggests that it too may be of seventeenth century origin. Indeed it may have been the location of the 27 cottages referred to in 1611. In 1603 Sir Henry Dowcra was granted the right to hold a weekly market at Lifford while in the incorporation charter of 1612 it is stated that the market should be held on Mondays. The market place was evidently located in the Diamond. An account of 1600 refers to Lifford as having "some eighty houses" (CSPI 1600-1, 93). There is no information on the form of these houses, however. By 1611 there were some 21 half-timbered houses in the town and 37 cottages, while in 1622 the town had at least 54 houses. Evidence for inns is indicated by the fact that the inhabitants of Lifford were "able to give entertainment to passengers" shortly after the foundation of the town (Robinson 1984, 173). An account of the settlement, written in 1600, describes it as lying beside the river and "encompassed by an old ditch" (CSPI 1600-1, 93). An outline of these defences is shown on a map, prepared perhaps to accompany this account, now in the library of Trinity College Dublin (Ms. 1209 (17)). No trace of this ditch now survives' (Bradley & Dunne 1989, 53-4).

DG071-008004-

Class: House - 16th/17th century

Townland: LIFFORD

The physical layout of the town is described in the Urban Survey as 'The core of the seventeenth century Lifford was concentrated on the Diamond and on the street running SW from it towards the modern bridge, then the site of a ferry. It was presumably in this area that the twentyone houses, built for Sir Richard Hansard by 1611, were located. The presence of a burgage plot pattern on the street running NW from the town, past Ballyduff House, suggests that it too may be of seventeenth century origin. Indeed it may have been the location of the 27 cottages referred to in 1611. In 1603 Sir Henry Dowcra was granted the right to hold a weekly market at Lifford, while in the incorporation charter of 1612 it is stated that the market should be held on Mondays. The market place was evidently located in the Diamond. An account of 1600 refers to Lifford as having "some eighty houses" (CSPI 1600-1, 93).



There is no information on the form of these houses, however. By 1611 there were some 21 half-timbered houses in the town and 37 cottages, while in 1622 the town had at least 54 houses. Evidence for inns is indicated by the fact that the inhabitants of Lifford were "able to give entertainment to passengers" shortly after the foundation of the town (Robinson 1984, 173).<sup>1</sup> (Bradley & Dunne 1989, 53-4).

DG071-010----

Class: Bullaun stone (present location)

Townland: LIFFORD

In back garden of house facing onto Foyle View street in the town of Lifford, Donegal. A large irregular shaped sandstone boulder (H 0.3-0.43m; 0.4m x 0.65m) with quartz inclusion that has a deep, smooth-sided, circular-shaped hollow (top diam. 0.27m; base diam. 0.12m; D 0.2m) in its upper surface. According to the owner of the house, this bullaun stone was originally located in the townland of Mullanalamphry beside Tawnawully Bridge close to the shoreline of Lough Eske (DG094-014----).

The core of the seventeenth century Lifford was concentrated on the Diamond and on the street running SW from it towards the modern bridge, then the site of a ferry. It was presumably in this area that the twentyone houses, built for Sir Richard Hansard by 1611, were located. The presence of a burgage plot pattern on the street running NW from the town, past Ballyduff House, suggests that it too may be of seventeenth century origin. Indeed it may have been the location of the 27 cottages referred to in 1611. An account of the settlement, written in 1600, describes it as lying beside the river and "encompassed by an old ditch" (CSPI 1600-1, 93). An outline of these defences is shown on a map, prepared perhaps to accompany this account, now in the library of Trinity College Dublin (Ms. 1209 (17)). No trace of this ditch now survives' (Bradley & Dunne 1989, 53-4).



**Plate 1:** Looking northwest over the north of the site



**Plate 2:** Looking north over the site



**Plate 3:** Looking west over the proposed development



**Plate 4:** Looking south over the northern section of the site



**Plate 5:** Looking north over the proposed development



**Plate 6:** N14 at the northwest of the site



**Plate 7:** Small farmers yard within the site

#### 4.3 Previous Archaeological Works

The database of Irish archaeology includes six entries for Lifford. Only one of these uncovered potential archaeological remains. A mortared stone wall was recorded during works at the Town Hall. This may be modern in date. The remainder of the sites did not include archaeological remains.

## **5 Impact on the Archaeological Landscape**

### **5.1 Recorded Archaeological Monuments**

The proposed development is located to the northwest of the historic town of Lifford. This dates to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. No remains associated with the town extend into the study area. No other recorded archaeological remains are in the vicinity of the study area.

### **5.2 Site Survey**

A site survey was undertaken on an overcast day in February 2022. The entire study area was walked over to see if any previously unrecorded remains existed within the development. The site survey has shown that the development consists of five interlocking fields in an elevated position. The area has commanding views to the north and south. The N14 is located at the south of the site and would have been in use since the foundation of the town for access. The site contains a small modern farmyard at the south. The walk over survey did not identify any features indicative of archaeological remains.

### **5.3 Cartographic Evidence**

An examination of the cartographic evidence for the area of proposed development was undertaken. This involved the 17<sup>th</sup> century Down Survey, the Rocque Map, the first edition of the Ordnance Survey Map and its later editions (Figure 9 and 10), and the Cassini map for the area.

#### **Down Survey**

This shows the location of the site as open areas, Lifford town is marked on the map with a church and a number of structures are marked. These are at a remove from the study area.

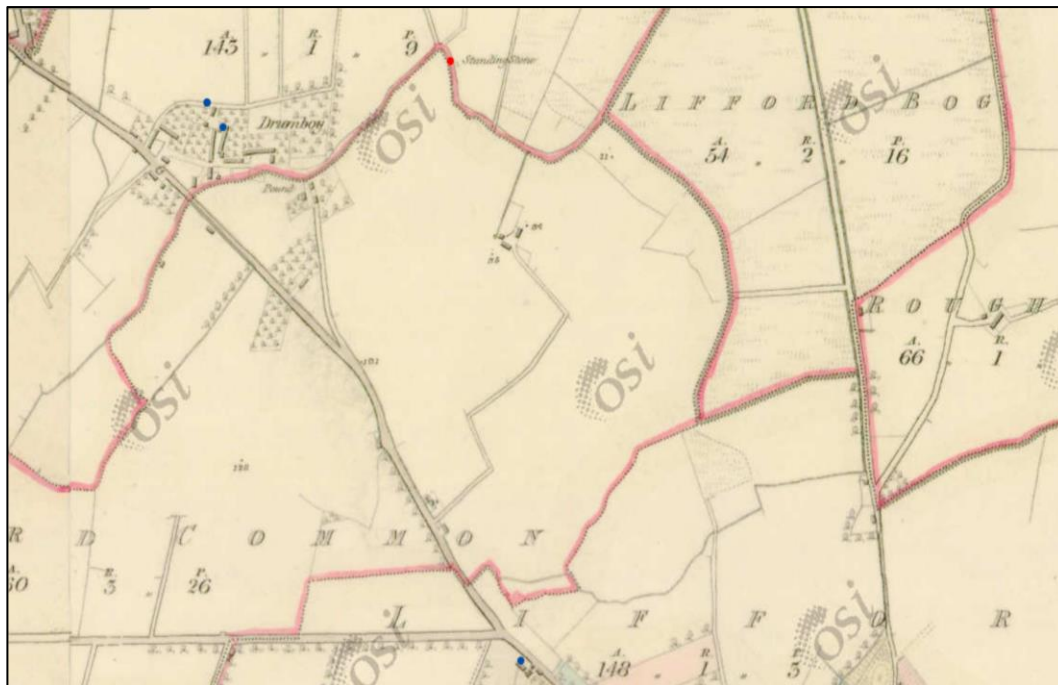
#### **First Edition OS Map**

The proposed site consisted of two larger fields at this stage. A small dwelling and farmyard were located at the northwest. The farmyard was accessed by a laneway to the south.

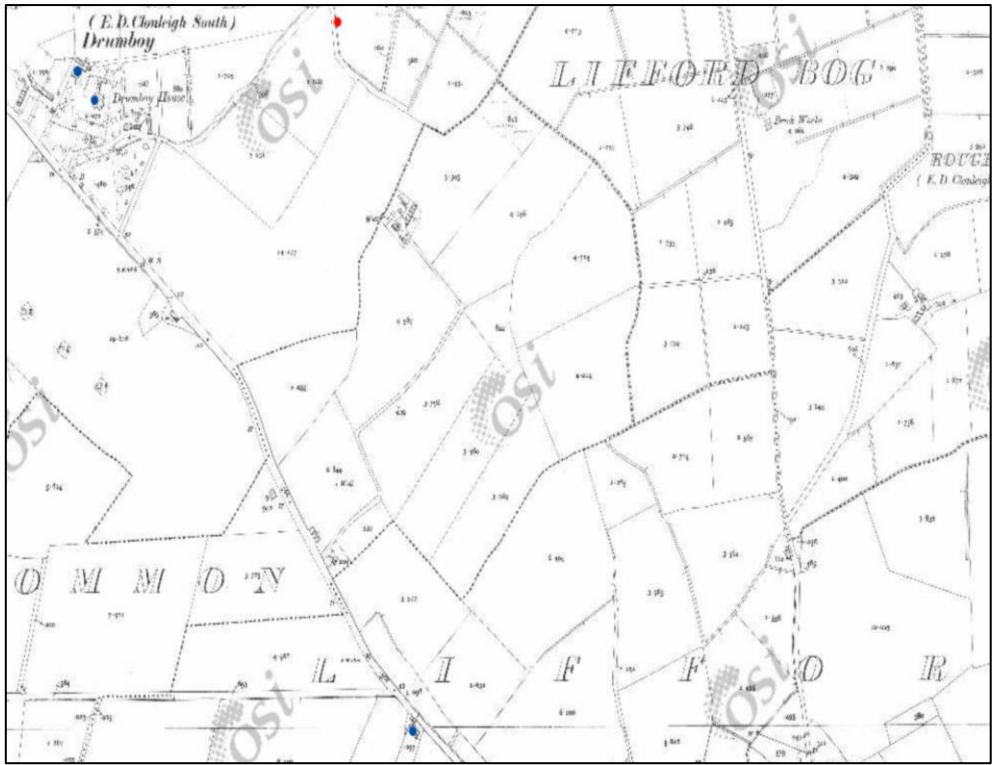
## Second Edition OS map

The fields have been divided by the 25" map, possible as a result of land improvement and drainage works at the site. The access lane to the house and farm is still visible at the south.

No additional features indicative of archaeological remains were visible on the maps or the aerial photographs for the site.



**Figure 5: First edition OS Map for the site**



**Figure 6:** 25" OS Map with the Site Marked



**Figure 7:** Downe survey map for the area



## **5.4 Townland**

Townland names can give an indication of previous activities at the area that have since been forgotten and leave no trace at ground level. They can contain information on previous ownership, land use or archaeological monuments such as churches or settlement sites. Townland boundaries may reflect ancient territories, and some have associated archaeological features. The townland boundary between Lifford Common and Lifford Bog forms the northern boundary of the site and the boundary between Lifford Common and Lifford forms the southern boundary. The townland Lifford translates into Leifear in Irish.

## **5.5 Architectural Heritage**

The study area of its environs do not include any structures listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.

## **5.6 Archaeological Potential**

The proposed development does not include any known archaeological remains. However the area is close to the 17<sup>th</sup> century town of Lifford and would have been in use as agricultural land at this time. There may be activity associated with the early town in this area. Many archaeological sites leave no surface trace and may only be identified during earth works associated with development. Furthermore townland boundaries may reflect the extent of ancient territories and may have associated archaeological features. As a result of these elements there is a moderate potential for sub surface features to be identified during excavation works at the site. As a result of this a series of mitigation strategies have been recommended.

## **6 Mitigation Strategies**

A suitably qualified archaeological consultant shall be appointed to undertake licenced archaeological testing of the site prior to development. This will allow for sub surface archaeological remains to be identified. Should significant remains be uncovered their discovery at an early stage will allow of redesign should

preservation in situ be required. These works will be under license from the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Should archaeological or architectural heritage features, deposits or structures be uncovered during archaeological monitoring the NMS should be contacted and a strategy for the resolution of these features be formulated.

## **7 Conclusion**

It is proposed to develop a site at Lifford, Co. Donegal . The site is to the northwest of the historic town of Lifford. The site and its immediate surrounds do not contain any recorded archaeological remains. The town is located over 300m to the southeast. A walk over archaeological survey of the area was undertaken. This did not identify any features indicative of sub surface archaeological remains. The site is within agricultural land close to a 17<sup>th</sup> century town indicating a moderate potential for sub surface remains within the site. As a result of this archaeological testing has been recommended. This will allow any sub surface remains to be identified prior to development. This will aid in the preservation of the remains in situ or by record and will aid the design of the site to best preserve these remains.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of local authority and the National Monuments Service at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

## **Appendix I: References**

**Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands, 1999, Policy and Guidelines on archaeological excavation.**

**Herbison, 1975, Guide to the National Monuments of Ireland, Gill and MacMillan.**

**Mallory J.P. and MacNeill, T.E. 1991, The Archaeology of Ulster, Institute of Irish Studies, Queens University Publications.**

**Meath Co. Co. Development Plan 2013-2019.**

**National Monuments Acts 1930-2004.**

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

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

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

[www.seanruea.ie](http://www.seanruea.ie) [www.osi.ie](http://www.osi.ie)

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