

Archaeological desktop constraints report
**Ramelton Historic Town Centre, Public Realm
Scheme, Ramelton, County Donegal**



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1. Introduction

John Cronin & Associates have been commissioned by BDP Ltd to prepare this desktop constraints report on the archaeological heritage resource within a study area encompassing the Ramelton Historic Town Centre – Public Realm Scheme. Donegal County Council (DCC) proposes to reinvigorate a portion of the historic core of Ramelton town centre through a series of public realm improvements. The final concepts/designs for the relevant locations are yet to be determined, as a result, this report has been compiled to provide the project design team with relevant information on known archaeological constraints within, and immediately adjacent to, the proposed development area.



Figure 1: Location of study area (in red) within the town of Ramelton (Source: www.archaeology.ie)

The report commences with an outline of the methodology used in its compilation (**Section 2**) and then summarises the legal and policy frameworks designed to protect the archaeological heritage resources (**Section 3**). This is followed by the identification of designated archaeological constraints within the study area and the results of a review of relevant sources undertaken to assess the potential presence of hitherto undesignated or unrecorded features within the study area (**Section 4**). A summation of the results of the study are presented in (**Section 5**), which also includes general preliminary recommendations for measures to be adopted during the design phase of the proposed project.

2. Methodology

This report is based on a programme of desktop research on the study area which was undertaken in order to identify known and potential archaeological constraints within the study area and its close environs. The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for County Donegal, both published by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland, were the principal sources consulted for identifying known archaeological sites. Details on the legal and planning frameworks designed to protect these elements of the archaeological heritage resources are presented in **Section 3** of this report.

In addition, the following sources were consulted as part of the desktop study:

- *Cartographic Sources* - The cartographic sources examined for the study area include the Down Survey (1650s), the 1st edition of the 6-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) maps (surveyed and published in the 1830s-40s) and the 25-inch OS maps (surveyed and published 1887-1913).
- *Aerial photography* –A review of publicly-accessible aerial photographic sources from the Ordnance Survey, Google and Bing Maps was undertaken.
- *Literary Sources* - various published sources were consulted and references are provided in Section 6 of this report
- *Development Plans* - These plans outline the local authorities' policies for the conservation of the archaeological and architectural heritage resource and include the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and any designated Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). The relevant development plan for the study area is the County Donegal Development Plan 2018 - 2024.
- *Database of Irish Excavation Reports* - This online database contains summary accounts of licensed archaeological excavations carried out in Ireland from 1970 to present day. The database entries for investigations carried within the vicinity of the subject area are provided in Section 3 of this report. Current data was accessed via www.excavations.ie
- *Irish Heritage Council: Heritage Map Viewer* - This online mapping source collates various cultural heritage datasets and includes extracts from the National Museum of Ireland's records of artefact discovery locations as well as datasets provided by, among others, the National Monuments Service, local authorities, the Royal Academy of Ireland and the Office of Public Works. Current data was accessed via www.heritagemaps.ie.

Field survey

A walkover of the project area was undertaken in August 2021 and extracts of the photographic record are presented in **Appendix 1**.

3. Context

Location

The town of Ramelton is located at the mouth of the Leannan River on the western shores of Lough Swilly. The historic town centre public realm scheme comprises areas including The Quays, Market Green Garden, Market Square, Market Cross, and Gamble's Square.



Figure 2: Aerial image of the Ramelton with public realm scheme boundary in red

Legal & Policy Framework

The management and protection of cultural heritage in Ireland is achieved through a framework of national laws and policies which are in accordance with the provisions of the Valetta Treaty (1995) (formally the *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*, 1992) ratified by Ireland in 1997; the *European Convention on the Protection of Architectural Heritage* (Granada Convention, 1985), ratified by Ireland in 1997; and the *UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*, 2003, ratified by Ireland in 2015.

The locations of World Heritage Sites (Ireland) and the Tentative List of World Heritage Sites submitted by the Irish State to UNESCO were reviewed and none are located within the region of the country containing the study area.

The national legal statutes and guidelines relevant to this assessment include:

- National Monuments Act (1930) (and amendments in 1954, 1987, 1994 and 2004);
- Heritage Act (1995);
- National Cultural Institutions Act (1997);
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (1999);

- Planning and Development Act (2000);
- *Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities*, Department of Arts, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht (2011); and
- *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*, Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, 1999.

Archaeological Heritage

The administration of national policy in relation to archaeological heritage management is the responsibility of the National Monuments Service (NMS) which is currently based in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The National Monuments Act of 1930, and its Amendments, are the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of the archaeological resource. They include a number of provisions that are applied to secure the protection of archaeological monuments. These include the designations of nationally significant sites as National Monuments, the Register of Historic Monuments (RHM), the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), and the placing of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders on endangered sites.

Section 2 of the National Monuments Act, 1930 defines a National Monument as ‘*a monument or the remains of a monument, the preservation of which is a matter of national importance*’. The State may acquire or assume guardianship of examples through agreement with landowners or under compulsory orders. Archaeological sites within the ownership of local authorities are also deemed to be National Monuments. There is no National Monument in the guardianship of the State within the study area.

The National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 made provision for the establishment of the RMP, which comprises the known archaeological sites within the State. The RMP, which is based on the earlier RHM and SMR, comprises county-based lists of all recorded archaeological sites with accompanying maps. All RMP sites receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1994 and the NMS must be given two months’ notice in advance of any works proposed at their locations. To this end, the NMS have designated areas surrounding the recorded locations of archaeological sites with Zones of Notification (ZON) and the extent of these are indicated on the Historic Heritage Viewer. **The Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) record three archaeological sites within the subject site boundary.** These include the records for the historic town (DG046-005----) and the site of Rathmelton Castle (DG046-005001-) and bawn (DG046-005007-). These sites are listed in **Table 1**, which also provides their locations in ITM format, and are mapped on **Figure 3**.

The *County Donegal Development Plan 2018-2024*, includes the following policies and objectives in relation to the protection of the archaeological resource:

Objective

AH-O-1: *To conserve and protect the County’s archaeological heritage for present and future generations.*

Policies

AH-P-1: *It is a policy of the Council to protect and enhance the integrity of Archaeological Monuments and their settings and to secure the preservation in-situ of all archaeological monuments included on the Record of Monuments and Places. Preservation by record shall only be considered in exceptional*

circumstances where the principles of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands publication entitled, 'Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage' can be satisfied.

AH-P-2: It is the policy of the Council to conserve and protect Zones of Archaeological Potential located in the urban areas of Ballyshannon, Donegal Town, Killybegs, Lifford, **Ramelton**, Rathmullan and St. Johnston as identified in the Record of Monuments and Places.

AH-P-3: It is the policy of the Council to protect the character, settings of and views from National Monuments and Recorded Monuments and to manage development which would be considered to (visually or physically) intrude upon or inhibit the enjoyment of the amenities of these sites.

AH-P-4: It is the policy of the Council to protect where appropriate, the character and setting of any unrecorded archaeological object or site.

AH-P-5: It is the policy of the Council to protect and preserve archaeological sites, their characters and settings which have been identified subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monument and Places.

AH-P-6: It is the policy of the Council to protect and conserve historic graveyards identified in the Record of Monuments and Places (including those in the guardianship of Donegal County Council) in cooperation with the National Monuments Service of the Departments of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and encourage their management in accordance with legislation, conservation principles and best practice.

AH-P-7: It is the policy of the Council to protect and preserve underwater archaeological sites in rivers, lakes, intertidal and sub-tidal locations.

AH-P-8: It is the policy of the Council to protect known battlefield sites and their settings.

Archaeological and historical Context

All of the Ramelton Public Realm Scheme with the exception of Gamble's Square is located within the *Zone of Notification (ZoN)/Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP)* for the historic town of Ramelton (DG046-005----). The *Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI)* records a further two archaeological sites (see **Figure 3** and **Table 1** below) within the project area boundary and these relate to a castle and bawn built in the early 1600s by Sir William Stewart during the Plantation of Ulster.

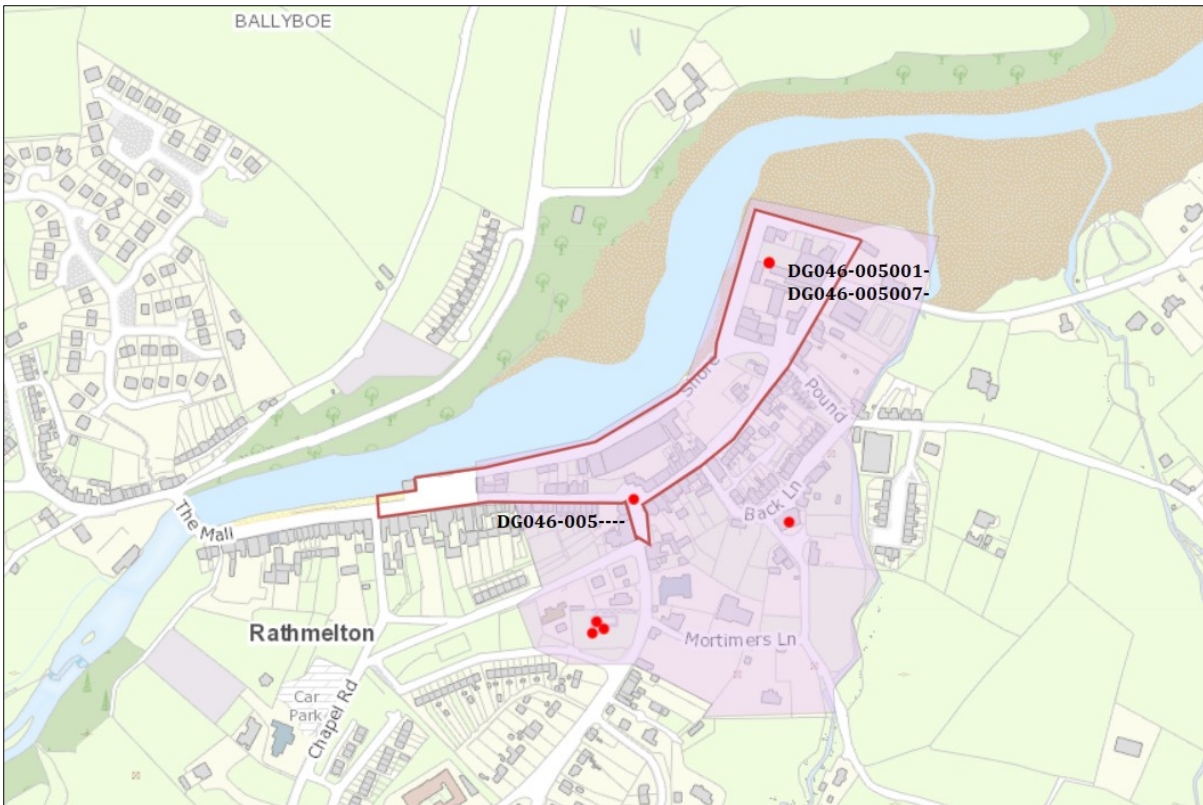


Figure 3: Location of archaeological sites as recorded by the ASI. The pink shaded area is the designated zone of the historic town (DG046-005----). The extent of the study area boundary indicated by red line.

Table 1: Recorded archaeological sites located within project area of Ramelton Public Realm Scheme

SMR No.	Class	Townland	ITM (E, N)
DG046-005----	Historic town	Rathmelton	622661, 921108
DG046-005001-	Castle - unclassified	Rathmelton	622897, 921038
DG046-005007-	Bawn	Rathmelton	622897, 921038

The following presents summary details of the main periods within the Irish archaeological record with references to the recorded archaeological sites located within the study area. The dating framework used for each period is based on *Guidelines for Authors of Reports on Archaeological Excavations* as published by the National Monuments Service (NMS).

Prehistoric periods

Until the recent identification of Palaeolithic human butchery marks on animal bones dated to 31,000 and 12,800 BP, the earliest recorded evidence for human activity in Ireland dated to the Mesolithic period (7000–4000 BC) when groups of hunter-gatherers lived on the heavily wooded island. The archaeological record indicates that these nomadic groups tended to favour coastal, lake and river shores which provided a transport resource and also provided elements of their varied diet. While the Mesolithic settlers did not construct any settlements or monuments that leave any above ground traces, their presence in an area can often be identified by scatters of worked flints in ploughed fields, shell middens adjacent to shorelines or sub-surface traces of temporary settlements uncovered during development works. **There are no recorded sites dating to the Mesolithic period located within the study area or its immediate vicinity.**

The Neolithic period (4000-2400 BC) began with the arrival and establishment of agriculture as the principal form of economic subsistence, which resulted in more permanent settlement patterns. As a consequence of the more settled nature of agrarian life, new site-types, such as more substantial rectangular timber houses and various types of megalithic tombs, begin to appear in the archaeological record during this period. **There are no recorded sites dating to the Neolithic period located within the study area or its immediate vicinity.**

Metalworking arrived in Ireland with the advent of the Bronze Age period (c.2400–500 BC) and saw the introduction of a new artefactual assemblage, including metal and ceramic objects, to the island. This period was also associated with the construction of new monument types such as standing stones, stone rows, stone circles and burnt mounds known as *fulachta fiadh*. The development of new burial practices during this period also saw the construction of funerary monuments such as cairns, barrows, boulder burials and cists. The arrival of iron-working technology in Ireland saw the advent of the Iron Age (600 BC – 400 AD). This period has traditionally been associated with a Celtic ‘invasion’, but recent archaeological evidence points instead to a gradual acculturation of the Irish Bronze Age communities following centuries of contacts with Celtic-type cultures in Europe. Relatively little was known about Iron Age settlement and ritual practices in Ireland until recent decades when the corpus of evidence has been greatly increased by the discovery of sub-surface sites dating to this period during archaeological investigations in advance of development projects. **There are no recorded Bronze Age or Iron Age sites within the study area.**

Early medieval period

This period began with the introduction of Christianity in Ireland and continued up to the arrival of the Anglo-Normans during the 12th century (c.400–1169 AD). The establishment of the Irish church was to have profound implications for political, social and economic life and is attested to in the archaeological record by the presence of church sites, associated places for burial and holy wells. The early medieval church sites were morphologically similar to ringforts but are often differentiated by the presence of features such as church buildings, graves, stone crosses and shrines. This period saw the emergence of the first phases of urbanisation around the large monasteries and the Hiberno-Norse ports. However, the dominant settlement pattern of the period continued to be rural in sites such as ringforts, which comprise roughly circular enclosures delimited by earthen banks formed of material thrown up from a concentric external ditch. Ringforts are one of the most numerous monuments in the Irish landscape and the early medieval terms for these sites, rath/lios/dun, still form some of the most common place-name elements in the country. **There are no recorded early medieval period sites within the study area.**

Late medieval and post-medieval periods

The early part of this period was a turbulent time in Irish history and in the later decades of the 16th century the Tudors began to re-assert English control. No more so than in Ramelton where the O’Donnell castle stood from the 15th to 17th centuries. Following the defeat of Hugh O’Donnell and the Flight of the Earls in 1609, a castle, fortified house and bawn (DG046-005001- & DG046-005007-); Tullyaughnish church (DG046-005002- & DG046-005006-) and a village (DG046-005--) were built by William Stewart of Ayrshire between 1619-1622. The castle was subsequently burned during the wars that followed the 1641 rebellion but was intact enough to be depicted on the Down Survey map of the 1650s (**Figure 4**). These maps were the first ever detailed land survey on a national scale anywhere in the world. Following the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland

(1649–53), the survey sought to measure all the land to be forfeited by the Catholic Irish in order to facilitate its redistribution to merchant adventurers and English soldiers. In the instance of Ramelton the land was in the ownership of Scottish protestants.

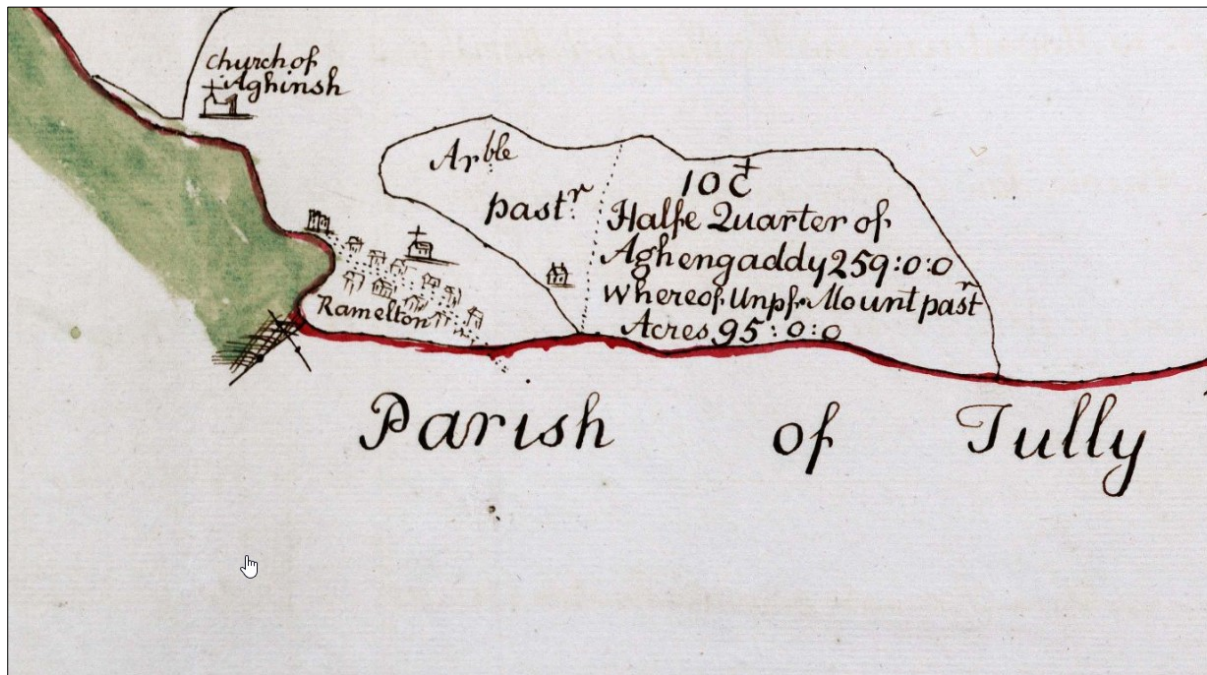


Figure 4: Extract from Down Survey map (1656 – 1658) depicting Ramelton with the castle and church clearly annotated (Source: <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php>)

Growth of the town expanded rapidly at this time and its wealth depended on its status as the main port for this part of Donegal, occupying a strategic position and a gateway to the Atlantic. Located close to the river, waterways played an integral part of life in the medieval and post-medieval periods. Travel by sea was in many instances quicker than travel over land. During the eighteenth century, there was increasing trade in linen, and this is reflected in the built heritage of Ramelton with buildings such as those along The Quay. Several town houses were constructed as the town expanded around the port area where it prospered and extended westwards along the river.

During the early nineteenth century a series of impressive warehouses were built and utilised for grain storage at a time when the grain trade was at its height. In his 1837 *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*, Samuel Lewis described the town of Ramelton as follows:

RAMELTON, a market and post-town, in the parish of AUGHNISH, barony of KILMACRENAN, county of DONEGAL, and province of ULSTER, 19 miles (N. N. W.) from Lifford, and 123½ (N. W. by N.) from Dublin; containing 1783 inhabitants. Sir Wm. Stewart, Knt., who was much in favour with Jas. I., became an undertaker for the plantation of escheated lands, of which he obtained a grant or patent of 1000 acres in this vicinity, and was created a baronet of Ireland in 1623. At the time of Pynnar's Survey he had built a strong bawn here, 80 feet square and 16 feet high, with four flankers and a strong and handsome castle; and contiguous to these he had built the town, then containing 45 houses, inhabited by 57 British families; he had also nearly completed the erection of a church: the place was then considered well situated for military defence. The town stands on the river

Lenon, which here empties itself into Lough Swilly, and is navigable for small vessels: it consists of three streets, containing 341 houses, and is admirably adapted for manufactures of every description. Here are extensive corn-mills, a brewery, bleachgreen, and linen manufactory, and a considerable quantity of linen is made by hand, in the vicinity. A market for provisions is held on Tuesday, and on Thursday and Saturday for corn; and fairs are held on the Tuesday next after May 20th, Nov. 15th, and on the Tuesday after Dec. 11th. A chief constabulary police force is stationed in the town, and petty sessions are held on alternate Thursdays. There is a small salmon fishery, producing about £500 annually; the fish are considered to be in season throughout the year, and are mostly exported to England. In the town are the parochial church, meeting-houses for Presbyterians in connection with the Synod of Ulster (of the first class) and for Methodists, a small fever hospital, and a dispensary. A loan fund has been established; also a ladies' society and a shop for the sale of clothes at reduced prices to the poor. The parochial and Presbyterian schools, noticed in the article on Aughnish, are also in the town. On the shore of Lough Swilly is Fort Stewart, the residence of Sir Jas. Stewart, Bart., surrounded by an extensive and well planted demesne; and at a short distance to the north-east is Fort Stewart Castle, erected by Sir Wm. Stewart, the original patentee of the surrounding lands. Pearls of considerable value are occasionally found in the river Lenon.

Cartographic review

The detail on historic cartographic sources demonstrates the nature of past settlements and land use patterns in recent centuries and can also highlight the impacts of modern developments and agricultural practices. This information can aid in the identification of the location and extent of unrecorded or partially levelled features of archaeological or architectural heritage interest. The cartographic sources examined for the study areas include first edition 6-inch OS maps (surveyed and published in the 1830s-40s) (**Figure 5**) and the 25-inch OS maps (surveyed and published 1887-1913) (**Figure 6**). The first edition 6-inch map indicates that the built environment of Ramelton town was well developed at its time of survey. The town is centred round the area of what is now referred to as Market Cross with the main approach from Letterkenny entering the town at this location. Dwellings line both sides of Bridge Street and Castle Street which approaches the northern quarter of the town and to the area clearly marked as 'Rathmelton Castle'. A marketplace is also depicted adjacent to the boundary of the castle.

By the time of the production of the 25-inch OS map circa 1900 the town had still retained its building stock. On this edition the area is referred to as Rathmelton Castle (Site of) an indication perhaps that the castle was no longer extant and had been redeveloped and repurposed as is evident by the increase in the number of buildings within the area demarcated as the location of the castle. The area of the marketplace has also been developed, although retaining the name Market Square this was likely the focus for the local markets at the time. The town had continued to develop during the nineteenth century, and a Public Hall was built in 1878 to the east of the site of the castle.

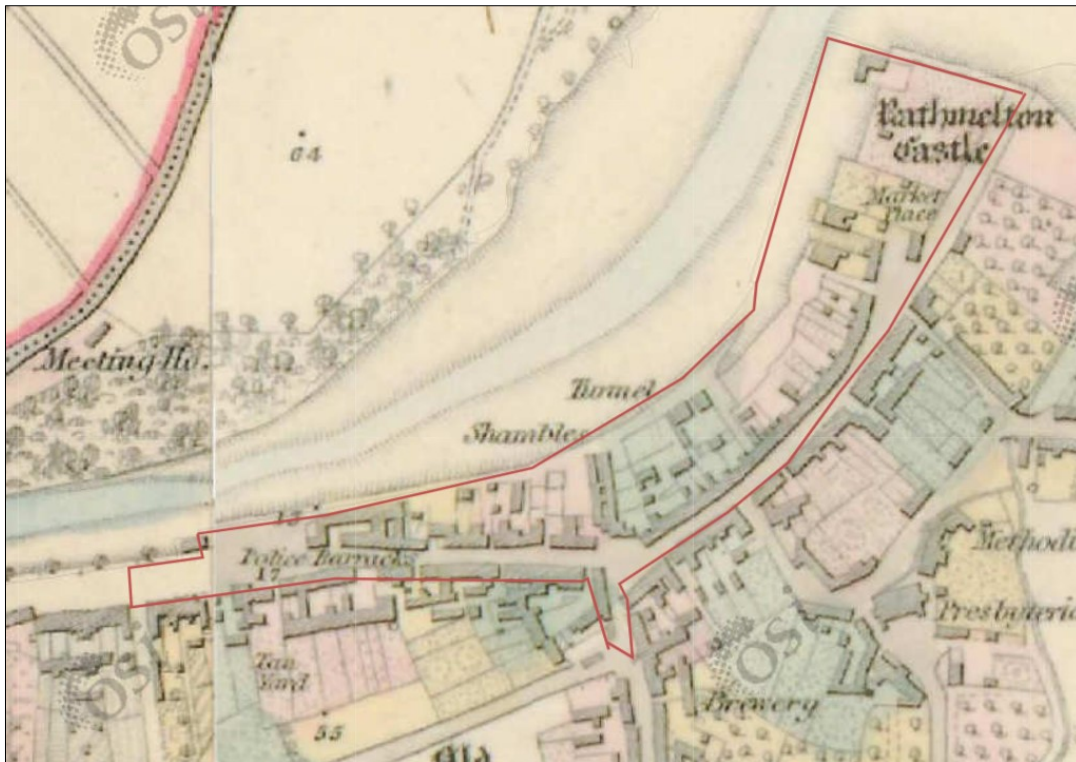


Figure 5: Extract from the 1st edition 6-inch OS map showing the approximate site boundary (red) (Reproduced under Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. SU 0003321 (© Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland))

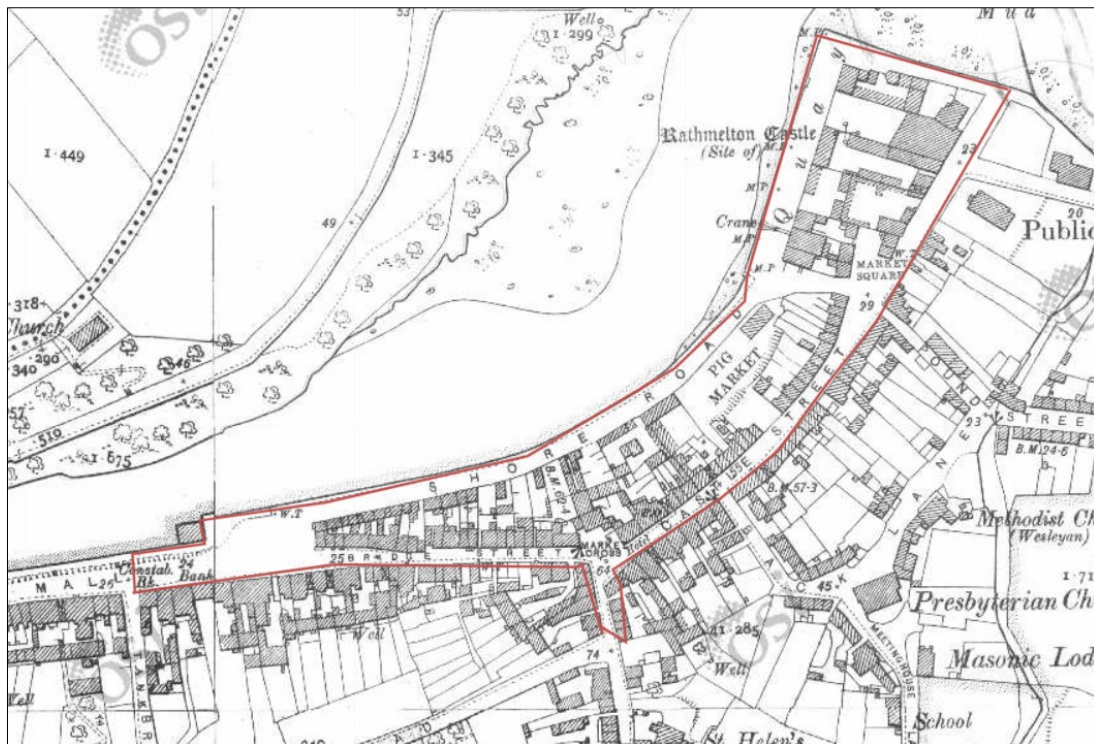


Figure 6: Extract from the 25-inch OS map showing the approximate site boundary (red) (Reproduced under Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. SU 0003321 (© Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland))

The Excavations Database

The Excavation Database (Excavations.ie) contains summary accounts of licensed archaeological investigations carried out in Ireland (North and South) from 1969 onwards. It has been compiled from the published Excavations Bulletins from 1969 to 2010 and online material only from 2011 onwards, it now provides access to approximately 30,000 reports that can be browsed or searched using multiple fields, including year, county, site type, grid reference, licence number, RMP number and author. The database lists three programmes of licensed archaeological investigations as having been undertaken within the project area, including at no. 20 Bridge Street, the mill and bottle factory site at The Quays, and no. 15 The Mall. Nothing of archaeological significance was discovered and full summaries can be found in **Appendix 3**.

4. Identified Constraints

This desktop constraints study was undertaken in order to identify all recorded archaeological sites within, and in immediate vicinity to, the boundary of the *Ramelton Transformational Public Realm Scheme*. The study also sought to identify any unrecorded archaeological heritage constraints or areas of potential interest within this area.

Designated Constraints

The study has revealed that there are **three recorded archaeological sites** (as recorded by the ASI) **within the project area boundary**. These include the records for the historic town (DG046-005----), and Ramelton Castle and Bawn (DG046-005001-) and (DG046-005007-).

It must be noted that the archaeological *Zone of Notification (ZoN)/Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP)* for the historic town of Ramelton extends over all of the project area excepting Gamble's Square. As such the areas incorporating the public realm project areas along with the supporting infrastructure improvements are subject to statutory archaeological protection, and all groundworks within these areas will require archaeological mitigation.

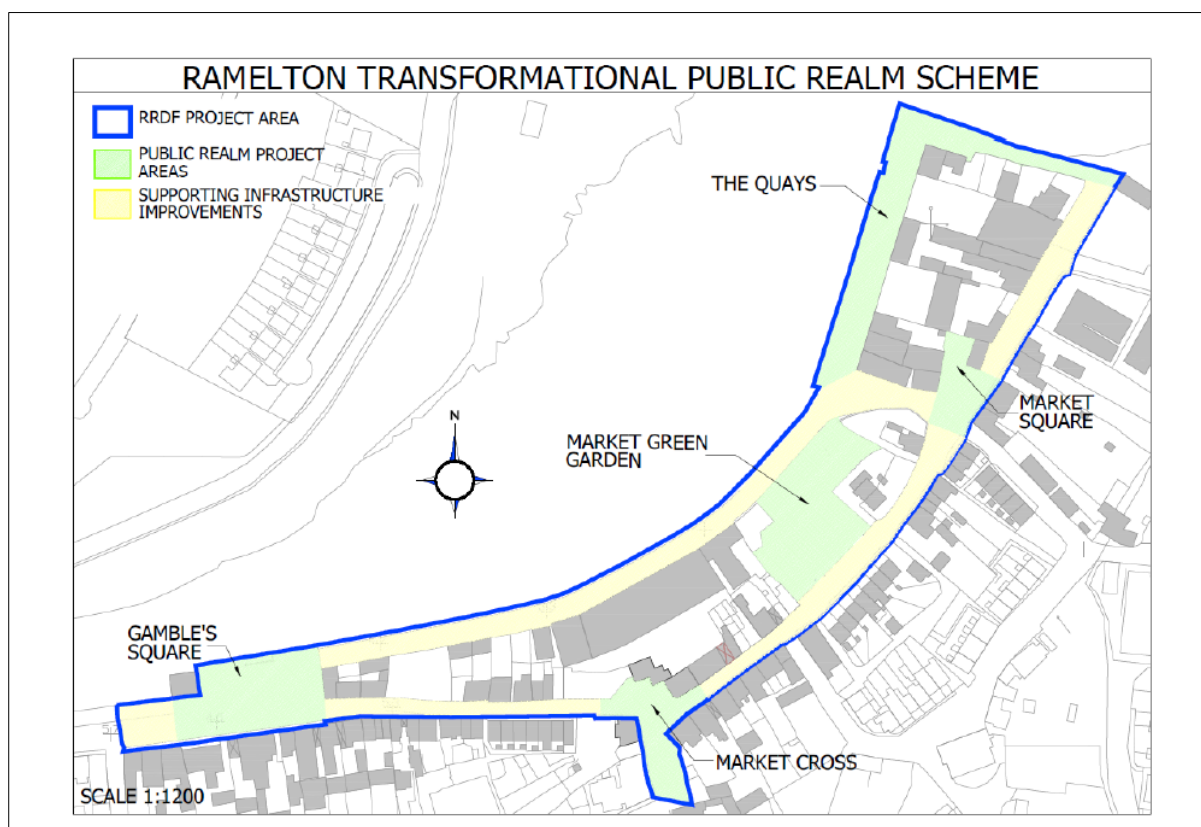


Figure 7: Project boundary demarcated in blue (Source: Donegal County Council)

Table 2: Recorded archaeological sites located within the project boundary

SMR No.	Class	Townland	ITM (E, N)
DG046-005----	Historic town	Rathmelton	622661, 921108
DG046-005001-	Castle - unclassified	Rathmelton	622897, 921038

<i>SMR No.</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Townland</i>	<i>ITM (E, N)</i>
DG046-005007-	Bawn	Rathmelton	622897, 921038

5. Preliminary Recommendations

The project is still in the design phase and this report has been compiled in order to inform the project team of the nature and location of archaeological heritage constraints within the boundary of the *Ramelton Transformational Public Realm Scheme*. The potential for the presence of hitherto unrecorded constraints and undesignated features of cultural heritage significance has also been assessed.

The following preliminary recommendations are general in nature, it is envisaged that the formulation of pre-construction mitigation measures will be developed in consultation with Donegal County Council and the National Monuments Service as the project progresses and fixed designs are made available. These may include archaeological test trenching and archaeological monitoring.

Designated archaeological sites/Zones of Notification (ZoN)

Any groundworks undertaken at project locations within the ZoN surrounding the historic core of Ramelton will be required to be subject to licensed archaeological mitigation. For example, any subsurface site investigations (SI) or public realm works may be subject to **licensed archaeological monitoring**, while the footprint of any new structures or developments may be subject to **licensed archaeological testing**. In the event that any archaeological features are revealed during these programmes, measures to **preserve these *in situ*** may be proposed or if this is not possible **archaeological excavation** may be required prior to the construction phase of the project.

Undesignated Cultural Heritage Features

Whilst the area of Gamble's Square is outside the ZoN surrounding the historic core of Ramelton it is **not** subject to any statutory archaeological protection, it is considered that there is *moderate potential* for the survival of archaeological remains within this area due to its proximity to the historic town, therefore any groundworks undertaken in this area may be required to be subject to an archaeological monitoring programme during construction.

6. References/sources

Published works

Loingsigh, M. (1994). An Assessment of Castles and Landownership in Late Medieval North Donegal. *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, 57, 145-158. Retrieved August 17, 2021, from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20568214>

Internet resources

Database of Irish Archaeological Excavations

<http://www.excavations.ie/>

Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage Historic Environment Viewer

<http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

<http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/Surveys/Buildings/>

Heritage Map Viewer - various interactive heritage maps

<https://heritagemaps.ie/WebApps/HeritageMaps/index.html>

Down Survey Maps

<http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php>

Google Earth

<https://earth.google.com>

Irish Placename Resource

<https://www.logainm.ie/1165378.aspx>

7. List of appendices

Appendix 1: Photographic record

Appendix 2: Archaeological Inventory Entries

Appendix 3: Excavation Database Entries

Appendix 1. Photographic record



Plate 1: Public realm project area 'The Quays' facing northeast



Plate 2: Public realm project area 'The Quays' facing west from the northern end of Castle Street



Plate 3: Public realm project area **'Market Square'** facing northwest from the junction of Castle Street and Pound Street



Plate 4: Public realm project area **'Market Green Garden'** facing northeast from the Shore Road



Plate 5: Public realm project area 'Market Cross' facing north from the Church Street



Plate 6: Public realm project area 'Gamble's Square' facing northeast from The Mall

Appendix 2. Archaeological inventory entries

SMR No: DG046-005----

Class: HITO

Townland: Rathmelton

Description:

Excavation licence number 99E0343. The test excavations were positioned to assess the location and complexity of the remains of any archaeological deposits on the site of the proposed development. The site, which overlooks the Leanann River, slopes steeply downwards from south to north, and, although it was much overgrown along the margins, it was possible to excavate the two long trenches without difficulty. The third trench, however, was excavated running across the line of the slope from north-east upwards to south-west. The line of this trench was dictated by the fact that the general slope of the site was too great for the mechanical digger to track directly up the incline. The results from all three trenches were similar, with topsoil directly covering a yellow/brown, compacted, sandy clay. The results suggested that nothing of archaeological significance survives on the site. In fact, the general steepness of the area may have mitigated against any occupation of this general area of Ramelton in the past. (Excavations Bulletin 1999)

Excavation licence number 99E0636

Monitoring was carried out of the excavation of lift shaft trenches and foundation trenches and general ground reduction to an existing mill building and bottle factory in the vicinity of the site of an earlier castle at The Quays, Ramelton, Co. Donegal, between 22 October and 9 November 1999. The natural subsoil was sealed by a dark brown, silty clay that contained a number of sherds of post-medieval pottery and modern rubble with frequent red brick, slate, tiles etc. The uppermost strata are interpreted as representing redeposited archaeological layers/formation deposits for the building of the warehouse/mill buildings, and the deposits in Lift shaft 1 as material deposited to facilitate land reclamation or deeper excavations for the construction of the upstanding buildings.

Excavation licence number 02E1058

No. 20 Bridge Street was demolished to make way for four local authority houses. To create the required space, levelling of a steep bank and demolition of a stone-built retaining wall were required. The wall was inspected by a conservation architect and found to be of no significance. It was recorded and taken down by hand. Uncut stones were bonded by a loose mortar with brick fragments. Behind this, the bank comprised 0.6m of dark topsoil overlying a light yellow, loose boulder clay. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed.

SMR Nos: DG046-005001- and DG046-005007-

Class: Castle and Bawn

Townland: Rathmelton

Description:

Ramelton Castle (DG046-005001-) (site of): By 1619, Sir William Stewart had built a castle and bawn (DG046-005007-) and erected a village and church at Ramelton. In 1622, the castle was described as three and a half storeys high 'with 3 round flankers on the top of the castle, and round turret or staircase, 42 ft. high, with a battlement and platform. Adjoining to the castle is a house . . . 11/2 storeys high, slated and a guard house for soldiers and also adjoining a bawn of lime and stone, 80 ft. square . . . having 3 square flankers' (Hill 1877, 524; Treadwell 1953-5, 42). This castle was burned during the wars which followed on the 1641 rebellion (Simington 1937,

98). Some two walls of the castle survived into the early 19th century and a sketch of these with a plan of the castle site and a short description are preserved among the OS Memoirs (see also Fagan Bk. 8, 33-4). Parts of the Castle are said to be incorporated under plaster in a modern building. The Castle was located at the head of an inlet where the Leannan river joins Lough Swilly, now inside the town of Ramelton. 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.

Appendix 3. Excavation Database Entries

<i>Townland</i>	<i>Licence No.</i>	<i>Description</i>
Rathmelton	99E0636	<p>Monitoring was carried out of the excavation of lift shaft trenches and foundation trenches and general ground reduction to an existing mill building and bottle factory in the vicinity of the site of an earlier castle at The Quays, Ramelton, Co. Donegal, between 22 October and 9 November 1999.</p> <p>The natural subsoil was sealed by a dark brown, silty clay that contained several sherds of post-medieval pottery and modern rubble with frequent red brick, slate, tiles etc. The uppermost strata are interpreted as representing redeposited archaeological layers/formation deposits for the building of the warehouse/mill buildings, and the deposits in Lift shaft 1 as material deposited to facilitate land reclamation or deeper excavations for the construction of the upstanding buildings.</p>
Rathmelton	02E1058	<p>No. 20 Bridge Street was demolished to make way for four local authority houses. To create the required space, levelling of a steep bank and demolition of a stone-built retaining wall were required. The wall was inspected by a conservation architect and found to be of no significance. It was recorded and taken down by hand. Uncut stones were bonded by a loose mortar with brick fragments. Behind this, the bank comprised 0.6m of dark topsoil overlying a light yellow, loose boulder clay. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed.</p>
Rathmelton	ID 21402	<p>Monitoring lasted two days and was carried out at 15 The Mall, Ramelton, Co. Donegal. The development consists of the demolition of an annexe and the construction of an extension to the rear of the existing dwelling. Development will also involve the demolition of a rear store and construction of a new domestic store and all associated site works. The development site is located within the archaeological constraint established around Ramelton (DG046-005). The 35m north-south x 6m site was topsoil-stripped to the level of geologically deposited strata. An area measuring 10m north-south x 6m, located immediately south of a 19th/20th-century house, revealed made ground sealing geologically deposited strata. A series of modern features were recorded at the southern end of the development area, immediately south of a small shed which was demolished as part of the development. Four modern pits were recorded; two were directly related to separate modern construction phases while the other two features contained modern pottery. No additional features or artifacts were revealed as a result of monitoring.</p>