

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
REPORT  
FOR RATHMULLAN (COMMUNITY & HERITAGE)  
REGENERATION PROJECT  
AT  
RATHMULLAN AND BALLYBOE TD,  
RATHMULLAN, CO. DONEGAL  
ON BEHALF OF**



**Fadó  
Archaeology**

**Planning Reference Number: 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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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>SCOPE OF WORKS.....</b>	<b>8</b>
1.1	Introduction .....	8
1.2	Purpose of the Project .....	8
1.3	Archaeological Assessment .....	11
1.4	Legal Background.....	12
1.5	Methodology .....	12
1.6	Desk Study .....	12
<b>2</b>	<b>CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT.....</b>	<b>14</b>
2.1	Description of the Site.....	14
2.2	Site Layout/Locational details .....	14
<b>3</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT .....</b>	<b>15</b>
3.1	Solid Geology and Soil Type.....	15
3.2	Landscape .....	15
<b>4</b>	<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL &amp; HISTORICAL BACKGROUND .....</b>	<b>16</b>
4.1	Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age): .....	16
4.2	Neolithic (New Stone Age): .....	16
4.3	Bronze Age: .....	17
4.4	Iron Age: .....	17
4.5	Early Christian or Early Medieval: .....	18
4.6	Later Historic Period: .....	18
4.7	History of Rathmullan: .....	19
4.7.1	<i>Lewis Topographical Dictionary of Ireland 1837 .....</i>	<i>20</i>
<b>5</b>	<b>DESKTOP DATA.....</b>	<b>20</b>
5.1	National Monuments.....	20
5.2	Previous Archaeological Work.....	21
5.3	County Development Plan.....	28
5.4	Record of Protected Structures .....	28
5.5	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage .....	28
5.6	Record of Monuments and Places.....	36
5.7	The National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files .....	43
5.8	Aerial Photography.....	43
5.9	Cartographic Evidence .....	43
5.9.1	<i>Ordnance Survey c. 1838 edition (6" map) .....</i>	<i>43</i>
5.9.2	<i>Ordnance Survey c. 1900 edition (25" map).....</i>	<i>44</i>

5.9.3	Down Survey of Ireland 1656-1658 .....	45
<b>6</b>	<b>RESULTS OF THE SITE INSPECTION .....</b>	<b>47</b>
6.1	Methodology .....	47
6.2	Results .....	47
6.2.1	Work Area 01 – Rathmullan Battery Fort .....	47
6.2.2	Work Area 02 - Community Hub .....	52
6.2.3	Work Area 03 - Rathmullan Abbey .....	55
6.2.4	Work Area 04 - Public Realm .....	62
6.2.5	Work Area 05 - Public Amenity Space .....	64
<b>7</b>	<b>POTENTIAL IMPACTS.....</b>	<b>66</b>
7.1	Potential Direct Impacts .....	66
7.2	Potential direct Impacts on Recorded Archaeological Monuments .....	66
7.3	Potential Visual Impacts on Setting .....	67
<b>8</b>	<b>CONCLUSION.....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>IMPACTS &amp; RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF IMPACTS.....</b>	<b>71</b>

## TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1:	Plan of the proposed development Work Area 01 to 05.....	11
Figure 2:	OSI Discovery location map of Rathmullan (source: <a href="http://www.h.eritagemaps.ie">www.h.eritagemaps.ie</a> ).....	15
Figure 3:	Plan of Priory taken from the Archaeological Survey of County Donegal (1983).....	41
Figure 4:	RMP Map 037 showing extend of historic town of Rathmullan (source: <a href="http://www.archaeology.ie">www.archaeology.ie</a> ). .....	42
Figure 5:	Aerial photograph of the PDA in Rathmullan (source: <a href="http://www.archaeology.ie">www.archaeology.ie</a> ). .....	43
Figure 6:	Ordnance Survey Map c. 1838 of the PDA in Rathmullan (source: <a href="http://www.archaeology.ie">www.archaeology.ie</a> ). ..	44
Figure 7:	Ordnance Survey Map c.1900 of the PDA in Rathmullan (source: <a href="http://www.archaeology.ie">www.archaeology.ie</a> )...	45
Figure 8:	Down Survey Barony map of Rathmullan (source: <a href="http://www.downsurvey.ie">www.downsurvey.ie</a> ).....	46
Figure 9:	Down Survey Parish map of Rathmullan (source: <a href="http://www.downsurvey.ie">www.downsurvey.ie</a> ). .....	46
Figure 10:	Proposed development plan for Rathmullan Battery Fort. ....	48
Figure 11:	Plan of the proposed improvements including the development of two footpaths as indicated, through the Glacis area adjacent to the Battery.....	50

Figure 12: Location of the proposed Community Hub at the junction of Main Street and Pier Road. .....	53
Figure 13: Projected drawing of the proposed development at the Community Hub, Battery, and Glacis. ....	53
Figure 14: Ryno-Pave Pedestals. ....	56
Figure 15: Pedestal on Hardcore on Geotextile on existing ground. ....	56
Figure 16: Proposed floor layout for Rathmullan Abbey. ....	57
Figure 17: Projection of proposed floor within the Nave of Rathmullan Abbey. ....	57
Figure 18: Plan of the proposed public realm enhancement scheme on Main Street and Pier Road. .....	62
Figure 19: East facing view of the proposed amenity space at the western end of Main Street. ....	64

## TABLE OF PLATES

Plate 1: NW facing view of Rathmullan Battery Fort. ....	31
Plate 2: NE facing view of the interior of the Battery – proposed area of the new building and public space. ....	49
Plate 3: East facing view of the interior of the Battery. ....	49
Plate 4: Interior of the blockhouse building. ....	50
Plate 5: South facing view of the Glacis through which a footpath is proposed. ....	51
Plate 6: East facing view of the southern edge of the Glacis in which a footpath is proposed. ....	51
Plate 7: East facing view of the Glacis viewed from the roof of the Battery blockhouse. ....	52
Plate 8: West facing view of the proposed location of the Community Hub. ....	54
Plate 9: NW facing view of the location for the proposed Community Hub. ....	54
Plate 10: South facing view of the Transept. ....	58
Plate 11: East facing view of the Chancel. ....	58
Plate 12: South facing view of the accumulation of soil in the corner of the transept. ....	59
Plate 13: West facing view of the cloister area. ....	59
Plate 14: South facing view from the cloister area looking towards the tower. ....	60
Plate 15: West facing view of the existing view of the existing footpath within the graveyard. ....	60
Plate 16: NE facing view of the entrance to McSwyne’s Castle/Abbey and the existing footpath. ...	61
Plate 17: NW facing view of the existing footpaths within the graveyard which are proposed to be upgraded. ....	61
Plate 18: West facing view of Main Street with the Abbey visible to the right. ....	63

Plate 19: East facing view of Main Street with the Glacis and Battery located to the right.....63  
Plate 20: NE facing view of the proposed public amenity space.....65  
Plate 21: West facing view of the proposed public amenity space.....65

## 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
ZAN	ZONE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTIFICATION

## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

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This report describes the results of archaeological assessment carried out by Fadó Archaeology at Rathmullan and Ballyboe Td, Rathmullan, Co. Donegal on behalf of Robin Lee Architecture and Pasparakis Friel Architecture for Donegal County Council.

The following archaeological impact assessment report documents the project. The proposed works entails a heritage led regeneration project centred on the historic town of Rathmullan on the western shore of Lough Swilly.

The proposed development is the within the historic Plantation town of Rathmullan and close the Zone of Archaeological Notification of recorded monuments RMP DG037-007003- Religious house - Carmelite friars (classified as a National Monument), and RMP No.: DG037-007---- Settlement cluster.

Site inspection took place on the 13th of June 2022. No previously unrecorded finds or features of archaeological significance were noted during the site inspection.

There is a possibility of subsurface archaeological remains surviving in the location of the proposed works adjacent to RMP DG037-007003- Religious house - Carmelite friars. Works proposed within the Abbey and graveyard, and in the adjacent areas associated with the construction of the

public realm on Main Street and public amenity area at the western end of Main Street could impact negatively on archaeological artefacts, features, or deposits. It is therefore recommended that all subsurface groundworks in these areas should be subject to archaeological monitoring during construction phase.

In addition to this it is recommended that works within the curtilage of the Battery and Glacis be subject to archaeological monitoring.

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

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## 1.1 Introduction

Fadó Archaeology were commissioned to carry out a programme of archaeological assessment at Rathmullan and Ballyboe Td, Rathmullan, Co. Donegal on behalf of Robin Lee Architecture and Pasparakis Friel Architecture for Donegal County Council planning department. The following archaeological impact assessment report documents the project, the existing environment at the site and the results of the site inspection.

## 1.2 Purpose of the Project

The proposed works entails the Rathmullan (Community & Heritage) Regeneration Project for the historic town of Rathmullan. The following five work areas are included in the proposed regeneration project:

**Work Area 01 Rathmullan Battery Fort** - Renewal and repurposing of Rathmullan Battery Fort and attendant lands.

The repurposing of the Battery is intended to create a series of places and spaces in which to learn about and celebrate the rich history and identity of Rathmullan along with its current and historic relationship to the sea. The design approach is to make all new interventions within the zone of the Battery that was historically occupied with structures and within the zone most subject to change in the 200 years since its original construction, namely the north-western edge.

The proposal is for a new building within the walls of the historic Battery with an internal area of 287m<sup>2</sup>. This will enable a roof terrace / viewing platform of 388m<sup>2</sup>. A canopied area along the edge of the new building will create a covered area of 50m<sup>2</sup>.

Between the new building and the enclosing walls of the Battery to the south an open area of 770m<sup>2</sup> will be available which can also be used as an event space during high and low seasons. The historic Blockhouse will be repurposed as an interpretation space as part of the visitor and educational experience of the Battery will 47m<sup>2</sup> of display and interpretation space on the ground floor and the same amount on the first floor. A new stair and lift installation will occupy 20m<sup>2</sup> of space on each floor.

Work Area 01 includes the development of historic Glacis to improve use and community interaction. The repurposing of the Glacis is intended to restore the status of this important historic feature as an essential component in the reading and understanding of Rathmullan Battery Fort, as



outlined above. Non-essential clutter has accumulated over decades of use changing and obscuring the character of this historic green space. Demarcation of the space, by virtue of perimeter barriers and level changes, has conspired to separate it from surrounding spaces and the community at the heart of which it sits. To enable direct route from the car park direction to the Battery a stepped ramp is proposed along the eastern edge of the Glacis. This will involve a minimal loss of green space but with tangible benefits in creating a new public route to the eastern edge of the Battery with elevated views across Lough Swilly with improved accessibility. A 1:21 slope directly linking the proposed Community Hub entrance to the Battery would allow these assets and facilities to be used in conjunction with one another and supporting the universal access objectives of the project for the benefit of all in the community. A level access route from the car park direction could be created to provide a direct public route to the Battery moat. This would allow a direct link between the car park and the extent of beach immediately south of the pier while also allowing access to the existing gated entrance to the Battery courtyard thereby further improving area-wide connectivity.

**Work Area 02 Community Hub** - A unique & flexible space with digital capacities, community office/meeting space and opportunities for start-ups, collaborative, and remote working. The Community Hub will support increased dwell-time within the village by offering a range of facilities, encouraging activity, and helping to support the local economy. The building is proposed at the heart of Rathmullan village creating a valuable focal point at the junction between Kerrs Bay and Pier Road. The Community Hall has an internal area of 285m<sup>2</sup>, subdivisible into two smaller halls with an upper-level Community Hub of 150m<sup>2</sup>. Meeting rooms and workspaces range between 30m and 60m<sup>2</sup>.

**Work Area 03 Rathmullan Abbey** - Introduction of interventions to the existing Rathmullan Abbey which: help manage public interest pressures; enhance the opportunity for public use and social purpose - performance, film, visitor experience; but which have the primary design purpose of achieving further restoration and long-term preservation of the structure. The proposed enhancement of the Abbey is intended to improve accessibility to and within the historic monument thereby enabling and encouraging its public use and purpose. The principle intervention will consist of a new level floor plane which will occupy and give access to the key spaces within the Abbey, namely the Nave, Transept, Chancel and Cloister. Improving accessibility and the enabling opportunities for events and other forms of group gathering will support the local area tourism offer in the shoulder season, increasing dwell-time within the village to encourage activity and provide opportunity to support the local economy.

The objective is to create a minimal, light-touch intervention that does not compete or in any way dominate the experience of the historic Abbey walls and the vestiges of the spaces that remain. Excellent work has been carried out in recent years to attend to these walls, safeguarding and restoring them, and so our approach has been to consider what other enhancements can be made to the experience of the Abbey. The proposal is therefore focused on clearing much of the existing undergrowth and creating an easily navigable ground plane. The intention is to give access to all parts of the Abbey and to allow the ruinous walls to be presented as history-laden artifacts through which the history of the monument can be experienced at close proximity. The proposed floor plane therefore allows physical access but also will enable access to the history of the Abbey through the incorporation of interpretation content integrated into the design. The floor plane might be considered as the floor of a museum gallery, able to display information via inscriptions, texts or graphic material embedded into the floor or into benches and monoliths positioned at key locations. Historic features such as the steps to the vault, headstones or the location of the historic open Cloister would be celebrated via large 'apertures' in the floor which would frame these important features with complementary interpretation information provided to allow an appreciation of significance. The proposal is for a floor surface within the walls of the historic Abbey with an internal area of 292m<sup>2</sup> (useable space). Generous extents of level surfacing throughout the Abbey will enable and support the important universal access objective for the Abbey. Existing pathways linking the original entrance gate to the Abbey will be enhanced through the upgrade of gravel surfacing to self-binding gravel to enhance access to the monument. Interpretation content using audible and QR technology could be considered to ensure access to information for people with hearing or other sensory difficulties.

**Work Area 04 Public Realm** - Material improvement and enhancement of the existing road and pedestrian infrastructure between the junction at Main Street/Weslayan street and Kerrs Bay/Pier Road to create a new shared public realm, streetscape environment and synergy of heritage language connecting the Abbey and the Battery. The exterior ground plane of the coastal sequence from Kerrs Bay to Pier Road is largely defined by tarmacadam with segments of intermittent footways where the width permits. Through the application of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) it can rationalise carriageway, reducing it to the minimum permitted width for two-way traffic (5.5m) and attributing any 'trimmings' leftover from this process back to the pedestrian. The coastal sequence along Kerrs Bay to Pier Road is approximately 400 linear meters.

**Work Area 05 Public Amenity Area** – Installation of a terrace on a small greenfield space small public amenity space.

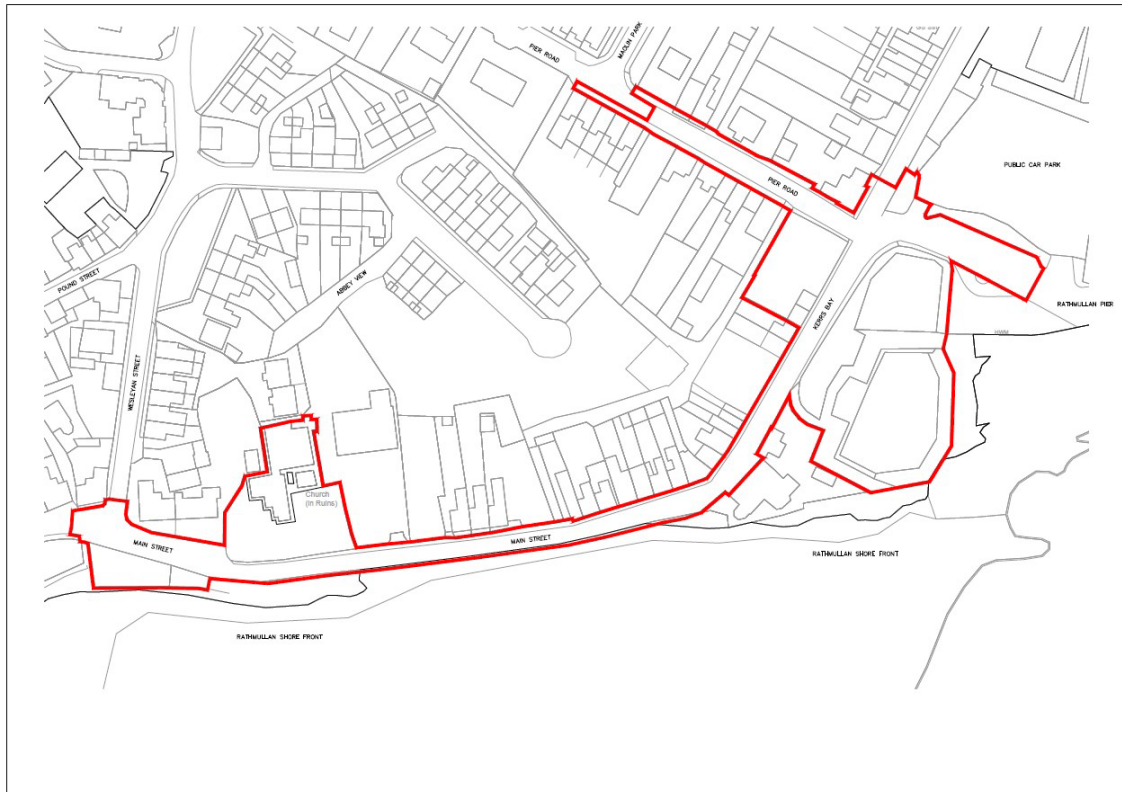


Figure 1: Plan of the proposed development Work Area 01 to 05.

### 1.3 Archaeological Assessment

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

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

development. It is always essential that the report on archaeological assessment contain an archaeological impact statement describing the possible direct or indirect effects of the proposed development on elements of the archaeological heritage.

## 1.4 Legal Background

The National Monuments Acts 1930-2004, 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 development areas.

## 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 2004) 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 (1930-04). 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 037 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](http://www.excavations.ie). Compiled from the published excavation bulletins, the database contains summary accounts of all excavations carried out from 1970 to 2022. Both the bulletins and database were consulted to establish whether excavations have been previously carried out in the vicinity of the proposed development.

#### **The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage**

The NIAH is a section within the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The work of the NIAH involves identifying and recording the architectural heritage of Ireland, from 1700 to the present day, in a systematic and consistent manner.

#### **Lewis Topographical Dictionary 1837**

Samuel Lewis first published his two volumes of The Topographical Dictionary of Ireland in 1837. His main aim, along with his previous topographical dictionaries and maps of the United Kingdom, was to give in 'a condensed form', a reliable and unbiased description of each place. Arranged alphabetically by place (village, parish, town, etc.), it provides a comprehensive description of all Irish localities as they existed at the time of publication. Lewis gives details about every parish, town, and village in Ireland, including numbers of inhabitants, the economy, history, topography, religion and parish structures, administration and courts, schools, and much more. He also gives the names of the principal inhabitants (generally landlords, merchants, and professionals). Lewis's dictionary is the first detailed study of its kind for Ireland, and since it was published just prior to the Irish Potato Famine (1845-49) it is a valuable resource used widely by historians and genealogists alike.

#### **Cartographic Sources**

Cartographic sources consulted include the first edition map of the Ordnance Survey (O.S) six-inch series published in 1838 and the twenty-five-inch c. 1900 O.S map were also consulted. All maps were sourced online at [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie).

## 2 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT

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### 2.1 Description of the Site

The proposed development area is in Rathmullan and Ballyboe townland, at Seaview Terrace, in the coastal town of Rathmullan, Co. Donegal. It is within the of Barony of *Cill Mhic Réanáin*/Kilmacrenan and the Civil Parish of *Cill Gharbháin*/Killygarvan. Rathmullan or *Ráth Maoláin* (genitive: *Ráth Maoláin*) means "Maoláin's ringfort".

### 2.2 Site Layout/Locational details

The proposed development area is in Rathmullan and Ballyboe townlands and centred on the heritage town of Rathmullan, in the NE of County Donegal and on the western shore of Lough Swilly.

Study area	OS Sheet numbers	ITM Co-ordinates	Townlands
Donegal	037	629741/927534	Rathmullan & Ballyboe



Figure 2: OSI Discovery location map of Rathmullan (source: [www.h.eritagemaps.ie](http://www.h.eritagemaps.ie)).

## 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

### 3.1 Solid Geology and Soil Type

The Rathmullan area is characterised as rolling lowland. The principal soil in the area is made up of brown podzolics (60%). The substrate type in the vicinity of the subject site is predominantly gleys (20%) and acid brown earths (20%), sitting on a predominantly mica schist glacial till.

### 3.2 Landscape

The landscape in this part of Donegal is situated in good farming land, although the southwest of the county contains extensive areas of rough pasture and upland bog as well as many lakes and inlets. Rathmullan town is located along the shore of Lough Swilly.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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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 the area of 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 Rathmullan:

Rathmullan serves as an important historical village as it was the scene of the Flight of the Earls in 1607, a major turning point in Irish history. There are also the ruins of the Carmelite Friary in

Rathmullan which was built by Eoghan Rua MacSweeney in 1516. The Friary was sacked by the English garrison from Sligo in 1595. In 1607, Rathmullan was also said to have seen the last of the Gaelic Order, most notably the Clan Ó Néill and the Clan Ó Domhnaill, during the Flight of the Earls to the Continent. This 'flight' took place from Portnamurray on the southern edge of the town. In 1617 the Friary was occupied by the Protestant Bishop of Raphoe, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Andrew Knox. A subsequent Bishop of Raphoe turned it into a fortified house in anticipation of a possible French invasion during the Napoleonic Wars. This Battery still stands and today serves as a heritage centre.

#### 4.7.1 Lewis Topographical Dictionary of Ireland 1837

The following listing appears in the dictionary for Rathmullan, Co. Donegal:

RATHMULLEN, a small sea-port, in the parish of KILLYGARVAN, barony of KILMACRENAN, county of Donegal, and province of ULSTER, 5 miles (N.) from Ramelton: the population is returned with the parish. It is situated on the western shore of Lough Swilly and consists of one main street: it has a penny post to Ramelton, and is both a constabulary police and coastguard station, the latter being included in the district of Dufanaghy: petty sessions are held here. There are some remains of a religious house built by Mac Swine Fanagh, for Carmelites or White friars, and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin; also of a castle, said to have been built by him, which was destroyed at the time of the Reformation, but afterwards rebuilt by Bishop Knox. Part of this castle was for some time used as the parish church, previous to the erection of the present edifice.

(source: <https://www.libraryireland.com/topog/>)

## 5 DESKTOP DATA

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### 5.1 National Monuments

There are no National Monuments listed in state care are in the immediate vicinity of the subject site. The following monument is in the care of the local authority:

#### **DG037-007003-**

Class: Religious house - Carmelite friars

A Carmelite friary founded by MacSwiney, Lord of Fanad, in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It consists of a nave-and-chancel church with south transept and some domestic buildings. The friars still seem to have been in occupation as late as 1595 for in that year George Og Bingham raided it and took 24 Mass Vestments, church plate and other things. It was leased to Captain Ralph Bingley in 1602, when it

consisted of 'one ruinous church, a steeple, a cloister, a hall, three chambers, an orchard and one and a half quarters of stony and infertile land'. King James granted it to James Fullerton in 1603, and about 1617 Bishop Knox took possession of it. He converted the south transept and the nave into a residence for himself, adding a western extension to the transept, inserting new windows, adding two fine corner turrets in the Scottish style at the east end of the nave, and building a fine new doorway in dark stone, putting his own initials and the date 1617 on it. Of the domestic buildings only the north-east corner survives, the upper of which may have been the abbot's room. The Flight of the Earls took place from outside the priory in 1607.

## 5.2 Previous Archaeological Work

A search of the database [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie) indicated that a significant number of archaeological investigations have been carried out in Rathmullan Town and environs. The following results were found in the vicinity of the subject area:

### **2000:0189 - WESLEYAN STREET, RATHMULLAN, Donegal**

County: Donegal Site name: WESLEYAN STREET, RATHMULLAN

Sites and Monuments Record No.: SMR 37:00703 Licence number: 00E0394

Author: Declan Moore, Moore Archaeological and Environmental Services Ltd, 200 Dún na Coiribe, Galway.

Site type: Vicinity of 16th-century priory

ITM: E 629549m, N 927565m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 55.094631, -7.537086

Testing was carried out on 10 June 2000 on the site of the proposed development of two single-storey semi-detached dwelling-houses and associated services off Wesleyan Street, Rathmullan, Co. Donegal. The site is located immediately to the rear of Rathmullan Priory, founded in 1516 for the Carmelite order.

The natural olive-brown, compact, silty sand subsoil was sealed by a series of deposits of post-medieval rubble, red brick and animal bone, sands and clays. These strata underlay topsoil and sod. A single child inhumation was observed at the southern part of Test-trench 3. The burial truncated the natural, olive-brown subsoil and was sealed by a layer of loose, grey, sandy clay with frequent inclusions of pebbles, small stones and occasional seashells. A second cut feature was observed to

the south of the burial and continued into the southern limit of excavation. Nothing further of archaeological significance was observed.

**2000:0190 - WESLEYAN STREET, RATHMULLAN, Donegal**

County: Donegal Site name: WESLEYAN STREET, RATHMULLAN

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 00E0375

Author: Teresa Bolger, Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, 8 Dungar Terrace, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

Site type: Adjacent to priory

ITM: E 629549m, N 927565m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 55.094631, -7.537086

A programme of test excavation and monitoring was carried out at the site of a proposed housing development off Wesleyan Street, Rathmullan, Co. Donegal. The site is located directly north of Rathmullan Priory, founded in 1516 by the Carmelite order under the patronage of Owen Roe MacSweeney.

A test excavation had already been carried out at the site by Declan Moore (see above No. 189). Though this produced evidence for high levels of disturbance across most of the site, a single inhumation oriented roughly east–west with the head to the west was identified in the south-east corner of the site. As a result, the development plans were altered to leave this area undisturbed. A further programme of test excavation was undertaken by the writer. This confirmed the disturbed nature of the greater part of the site and indicated that the revised development plan was unlikely to affect any archaeological material. Monitoring of the excavation of foundation trenches and service trenches at the site was also undertaken. No archaeological material was uncovered.

**2003:428 - Kerr's Bay Road/New Road, Rathmullan, Donegal**

County: Donegal Site name: Kerr's Bay Road/New Road, Rathmullan

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 03E1531

Author: Richard Crumlish, 61 An Cladrach, Castlebar Road, Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo.

Site type: No archaeological significance

ITM: E 629597m, N 927837m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 55.097071, -7.536306

Pre-development testing at the former Pier Hotel site, Rathmullan, Co. Donegal, was carried out on 22 September 2003. The proposed development (bar, restaurant and sixteen apartments with car-parking) was located within the archaeological constraint for Rathmullan (SMR 37:7). The removal of the floor slab during the demolition of the Pier Hotel resulted in the surface level being reduced by 0.2–1m.

Testing consisted of the excavation (by machine) of five trenches, which measured 16m, 16.5m, 26.1m, 24.55m and 7m long, respectively, 1.1–1.5m wide and 0.3–1.15m deep. Below the loose rubble fill, topsoil and tarmac on the surface was mid-brown friable sandy loam, mid-brown loose loamy sand, orange/brown friable sandy silt loam, grey/brown friable silt loam and bedrock. Rubble and red-brick wall foundations, part of the recently demolished building, were also revealed. The rubble fill and sandy loam contained modern artefacts. The topsoil contained three modern service pipes. The testing revealed evidence of 19th- and 20th-century activity only (i.e. contemporary with the recently demolished building).

### **2003:429 - Rathmullan House, Rathmullan, Donegal**

County: Donegal Site name: Rathmullan House, Rathmullan

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 03E1425

Author: Ciara MacManus, Archaeological Development Services Ltd, Unit 48, Westlink Enterprise Centre, 30–50 Distillery Street, Belfast BT12 5BJ.

Site type: No archaeological significance

ITM: E 629446m, N 927485m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 55.093918, -7.538708

A series of trial-trenches was excavated at the proposed development of Rathmullan House, Co. Donegal, located on the west shores of Lough Swilly, approximately 1km to the north of Rathmullan town. There was a planning application to extend the existing building to supply extra bedroom capacity and a conference room/dining suite.

The original building appears to have been approximately 30m by 40m in size, with a recent bedroom extension and swimming pool having been placed at the north-west corner. The current proposed extension includes a 15m-wide extension to the eastern side of the building, which is currently under car-parking, and a secondary building block off the north-west corner of the previous extension, being approximately 15m by 15m in size and currently a garden area.

Four trenches (Trenches 1–4), each c. 15m long and 1.5m wide, were excavated within the footprint of the proposed conference facility using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The trenches ran north–south parallel to each other and were excavated to the level of undisturbed natural subsoil at a depth of between 0.5m (Trench 1) and 0.7m (Trench 4) below the present level of the carpark, with a number of modern deposits overlying subsoil. Two test-trenches (Trenches 5 and 6) were excavated within the footprint of the proposed bedroom extension to the immediate south-west of the swimming pool. Trench 5 ran north-east/south-west, measured 12.4m by 1.5m and had a maximum depth of 0.8m, again being overlain by modern disturbance layers containing red brick and slate. Trench 6 ran north-west/south-east and measured 12.4m by 1.5m, with a maximum depth of 1.2m. The southern 3.4m of Trench 6 was very heavily disturbed, with the remains of the enclosing wall associated with the two-storey dwelling cutting across it. To the south of this wall, a trench for services to the above-mentioned dwelling was encountered but not excavated.

**2017:131 - Rathmullan, Donegal**

County: Donegal Site name: Rathmullan

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 17E0010

Author: Martin McGonigle

Site type: Testing

ITM: E 629853m, N 927602m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 55.094944, -7.532313

A total of three linear test trenches comprising 26m in length were excavated. The trenches proved that the entire development area consists of reclaimed land, which is made up of a number of deposits of sand, stone and hardcore measuring more than 1.5m in depth. No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were found in any of the test trenches, nor within a scan of the topsoil from these trenches. John Cronin & Associates, 28 Main Street, Buncrana, Co. Donegal.

**2017:600 - Rathmullan Pier, Donegal**

County: Donegal Site name: Rathmullan Pier

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 17E0010

Author: Martin McGonigle

Site type: Modern



ITM: E 629853m, N 927602m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 55.094944, -7.532313

Testing took place on the site of proposed public amenities at Rathmullan Pier on 18 January 2017. Three test trenches comprising 26m in total length were excavated. The trenches proved that the entire development area consists of reclaimed land, which is made up of a number of deposits of sand, stone and hardcore measuring more than 1.5m in depth. No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were found in any of the trenches. John Cronin & Associates, Burnside, Saint Oran's Road, Buncrana, County Donegal.

### **2019:302 - 6 Kerrs Bay, Rathmullan, Donegal**

County: Donegal Site name: 6 Kerrs Bay, Rathmullan

Sites and Monuments Record No.: DG037-007 Licence number: 19E0137

Author: Richard Crumlish

Site type: No archaeology found

ITM: E 629772m, N 927585m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 55.094796, -7.533584

Monitoring of groundworks at a development at 6 Kerrs Bay, Rathmullan, close to the western shore of Lough Swilly, in County Donegal, was carried out on 14 March 2019. The project consisted of the demolition of a single-storey extension and the construction of a two-storey replacement extension to the rear of an existing dwelling house.

The monitoring was a condition of the planning permission and was necessary as the development site was located within the constraint area for the 17th-century plantation town of Rathmullan (DG037-007).

The proposed development site was located to the rear of a terrace of houses, which appear to date to the second half of the 19th century. To the rear of the extension to be demolished was an overgrown back garden. In the north-west corner of the garden was a lean-to shed constructed of mortared rubble and concrete and roofed with corrugated metal.

The groundworks consisted of the excavation for a foundation for the proposed extension and the reduction of levels in the back garden. The area of the proposed extension measured 6.7m north-south by 3.6m. It was reduced by 0.85-1.2m. Below the concrete floor slab of the existing extension was rubble fill, above topsoil, above natural subsoil. The depth of topsoil was not exceeded in the

back garden, within which were found a modern concrete path and the rubble foundations of the lean-to outhouse.

The monitoring revealed evidence of 19th/20th-century activity at the site. Nothing of archaeological significance was in evidence. None of the modern finds recovered were retained with the exception of a complete ceramic vessel found within the foundations of the outhouse. It was labelled 'BERK CHEMICALS' and 'F.W.BERK & CO. LTD. LONDON ENGLAND'. F.W. Berk & Co. were formed in 1870 and were manufacturers of sulphuric and other acids.

### **2020:317 - Rathmullan and Ballyboe, Donegal**

County: Donegal Site name: Rathmullan and Ballyboe

Sites and Monuments Record No.: DG037-007003 Licence number: C000813; E004861

Author: Richard Crumlish

Site type: Medieval priory

ITM: E 629600m, N 927534m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 55.094348, -7.536284

Three phases of conservation works took place at Saint Mary's Priory (RMP DG037-007003) in Rathmullan, County Donegal, between 2017 and 2020, under Ministerial Consent No. C000813. The works, which were funded by Donegal County Council, were overseen by a conservation architect with a number of visits made by the writer. These visits included inspection of the works as they progressed and the identification, cataloging and storage of architectural fragments. No groundworks were necessary during the conservation works.

The Priory was founded in the early years of the 16th century for the Carmelite Order by Owen Roe MacSweeney and survived intact until 1595 when it was plundered by George Bingham, a captain in the Sligo garrison. It came into the possession of the Bishop of Raphoe, Andrew Knox, in the early 17th century. He converted the nave and south transept into a private dwelling with the tower and chancel used as a private chapel. The chancel served as a parish church from 1706 until 1814. The house probably fell into disuse when the Knox family left in the late 18th century.

The upstanding remains on the site are of two phases. The first phase dates to the 16th century and consists of a church (nave, chancel, tower and south transept) and domestic buildings to the north with the latter phase associated with Bishop Knox's alterations in the 17th century. There is a graveyard to the south of the buildings and a small number of burials within what was originally a cloister to the north of the church.

Forty-nine architectural fragments, which were recovered during the works, were securely stored on site. Three oak timbers, which appeared to have originated from one of the floors of the tower, were conserved. A sample from one of the timbers provided a dendrochronological date range from AD1552 to AD1658 with the best estimated felling date after AD1690. This date correlated well with the chancel becoming a parish church in 1706.

**2020:329 - Rathmullan & Ballyboe, Donegal**

County: Donegal Site name: Rathmullan & Ballyboe

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 20E0552

Author: Tamlyn McHugh/Fadó Archaeology

Site type: No archaeology found

ITM: E 629741m, N 927534m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 55.094340, -7.534075

Monitoring of topsoil stripping to the rear of 1 Seaview Terrace in historic Rathmullan Co. Donegal, was undertaken on 23 November 2020. Access was provided via a lane way to the north of the rear garden of the property. An outbuilding was mechanically removed to provide access for machinery. The stratigraphy in the rear garden consisted of sod layer over dark brown silt with moderate small stone inclusions and modern material including plastic items, brick fragments and very occasional clay pipe stems. No finds or features of an archaeological nature were noted during the removal of soil and site clearance in this area.

Monitoring was undertaken of the demolition and removal of the floor surfaces of an extension located to the rear of the house. Overburden and the former floor surfaces were mechanically removed in preparation for the insertion of foundations that will accommodate a new extension to the rear of the property. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.4m of floor material comprising concrete, sand and shell inclusions which overlay dark brown subsoil. The ground level was further reduced to the underlying stony boulder clay surface; this was excavated to a depth of 0.4m bringing the total depth to 0.8m.

A short foundation trench was mechanically excavated running south to north. This will accommodate a wall that will divide No. 1 Seaview Terrace from the neighbouring property to the west. This trench was 0.6m wide and 0.4m deep.

No finds or features of an archaeological nature were noted during the demolition of the former extension to the rear of the house, the reduced excavation for the foundations of the new extension or the foundation trench for the new garden boundary wall.

### 5.3 County Development Plan

The Donegal County Development Plan (2018-2024) was consulted for the townland of Rathmullan and Ballyboe. There were several listings in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) for the townland (listed below in Section 5.4).

### 5.4 Record of Protected Structures

A review of the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) produced the following results for the subject area of Rathmullan:

**RPS No.: 40819027 Rathmullan Abbey & Graveyard.**

Rathmullan Abbey built in 1516. The building is fragmentary and complex. The original friary was standard; a long church almost 80ft by 21ft wide, with side altars in a S transept, and the living quarters to the north on a line with the side of the chancel.

### 5.5 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

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

**Reg No.: 40819002 Rathmullan Coastal Battery, Main Street, RATHMULLAN AND BALLYBOE, Rathmullan, DONEGAL**

Rating: Regional

Categories of Special Interest: Architectural, Historical

Previous Name: Rathmullan Coastal Battery

Original Use: Barracks

In Use As: Heritage centre/interpretative centre

Date: 1810 - 1815

Coordinates: 229882, 427566

Description: Former coastal Battery, built c. 1813, comprising a two-storey blockhouse or 'bombproof barrack' on five-sided plan with mildly battered walls flanked by single-storey rubble stone curtain walls to the north and south (formerly with single-storey buildings to interior, now demolished), and with D-shaped traversing platform to the west (adjacent to coast) with five-gun emplacements (on circular plan). Flight of external stone steps to the east elevation of two-storey barrack building giving access to doorway at first floor level. Section of rubble stone curtain wall to the south-west side of enclosure having segmental-headed carriage-arch with ashlar granite block-and-start surround, ashlar granite voussoirs with projecting keystone, projecting ashlar granite plinth blocks, and with modern timber gates. D-shaped enclosure to the east, adjacent to coast, having rubble stone boundary walls. Now in use as a heritage centre and museum. Barrel-vaulted ashlar stone roof to main barrack building having ashlar parapet walls over with rounded coping, and with modern rendered chimneystacks. Two circular gun mountings to roof. Roof reached from first floor Battered tooled coursed stone walls to main building, rubble stone to boundary and curtain walls. Square-headed gun loop openings having stayed reveals to the north and south elevations of barrack and to the west side of adjoining single-storey curtain walls. Square-headed gun loop openings to the section of curtain wall to either side of carriage-arch to the south-west. Single square-headed window openings to the north and south elevations of blockhouse having replacement timber windows. Central square-headed doorway to the east elevation of blockhouse at ground floor level having cement rendered surround, and with replacement timber door; square-headed doorway to the south end of the east elevation at first floor level having replacement timber door. Remains of rubble stone vaulted structures to the interior of enclosure to the north and south sides of blockhouse. Five former gun emplacements (on circular-plan) set along the interior of enclosure to the east side (overlooking Lough Swilly). Located to the east side of Rathmullan adjacent to the shores of Lough Swilly. Enclosure surrounded by dry moat with steep grass Glacis to north-west. Sunken roadway to the west.

Appraisal: This impressive Napoleonic-era coastal fortification is an important element of the built heritage and history of County Donegal. Despite some modifications over the years, and recent works to create a museum, it retains much of its stark and original character and form. It is one of six such coastal batteries and Martello towers that were established along Lough Swilly to defend against possible French invasion during the Napoleonic Wars of the early years of the nineteenth century (there was an attempted landing in Lough Swilly by a French fleet under the command of the Hoche in 1798 with a force of some 8,000 men that was repelled at sea); these formed part of a wider group erected at this time at strategic locations along the Irish coastline and along the River Shannon. The other contemporary coastal defences along Lough Swilly can be found at Knockalla

(see 40901801) and Macamish (see 40902801) to the north, and across the Lough to the east at Neds Point (see 40902922), near Bunrana, Inch Island (see 40903705), and at Dunree (see 40901813). These batteries were designed to work in pairs, and Rathmullan Battery was paired with the fortification at Inch Island to the east with the forts defending the channel between. Plans were made for these six forts in January 1806 although construction work did not take place at majority of sites until 1812-3 (although temporary batteries were established at a number of sites from 1798, initially with modest British cannon supplemented with eight heavy cannon from the captured French naval vessel the *Hoche*). By 1801 there was a temporary Battery at Rathmullan armed with two 42-pounders. The 1806 plans (see above), proposed by Gother Mann, included the construction of a Battery at Rathmullan with 'a tower for two guns, extend Battery to five guns and two mortars'; this was costed at £7,000. In 1809 the Ordnance Office approved estimates of £4,918 for the construction\improvement of the fortification at Rathmullan (as part of a total of an estimated £32,594 for 'improvement' of the six fortifications at Lough Swilly). The designs for Rathmullan consisted of a Battery with five 24-pounders set on a D-shaped traversing platform adjacent to the coast protected by an austere two-storey barrack building to the west with two 5.5-inch howitzers of the roof; this was built as planned. To the north-west of the barracks was a detached powder magazine (the vaulted basement level of the two-storey barracks was probably also a powder magazine), there was a guard house adjacent to the gateway to the south, and to the centre of the enclosure there was a shot furnace (Griffith's Valuation map c. 1860) where cannon balls were made. The barrack building was apparently constructed using stone imported from Scotland. Construction did not start until 1812 due to contractual issues. The works were supervised by Captain Cardew RE with Edward Edgar the contractor. A report of 1817 records that the planned five 24-pounder guns and two 5.5-inch howitzers at Rathmullan were installed by this time. Rathmullan Fort remained in use until 1869 when the gunners stationed here were withdrawn. It was restored in 1990 as a museum and heritage centre focusing on the old Gaelic order and the Flight of the Earls (which took place from Rathmullan) and is now an important amenity for tourists and for the local community. This impressive if austere structure dominates the coastline at Rathmullan and is an important element of the built heritage and history of the local area.



**Plate 1: NW facing view of Rathmullan Battery Fort.**

**Reg No. 40819011 Main Street, RATHMULLAN AND BALLYBOE, Rathmullan, DONEGAL**

Rating: Regional

Categories of Special Interest: Architectural

Original Use: House

Date: 1840 - 1880

Coordinates: 229833, 427557

Description: Detached three-bay two-storey house, built c. 1860, having later single-bay single storey lean-to addition attached to the north-east gable end, and with single-storey return to the rear (south-east). Pitched slate roof with clay ridge tiles and with rendered chimneystacks to the gable ends (north-east and south-west). Pebble dashed walls over smooth rendered plinth course, and with smooth rendered bands to the corners of the front elevation (north-west). Projecting smooth rendered block to the north-east corner of front elevation. Square-headed window openings with smooth rendered reveals, painted sills, and two-over-two pane timber sliding sash windows with exposed sash boxes. Central square-headed doorway with smooth rendered reveals

and replacement battened timber door. Road-fronted to the east end of the centre of Main Street, Rathmullan. Rear of site backs onto the former Rathmullan Coastal Battery (see 40819002).

Appraisal: This modest house, dating to the mid-to-late nineteenth century, retains much of its original form and character despite some alterations. Its visual appeal is enhanced by the retention of the timber sliding sash windows, and this is one of the few buildings along Main Street, Rathmullan, that retains such salient fabric. It represents an increasingly rare surviving example of a building type that was, until recent years, a ubiquitous feature of the streetscapes of small Irish towns and villages but is now becoming increasingly rare. It makes a positive contribution to the streetscape to the east end of Rathmullan and is an addition to the built heritage of the local area.

**Reg No. 40819016 Pier Street, RATHMULLAN AND BALLYBOE, Rathmullan, DONEGAL**

Rating: Regional

Categories of Special Interest: Social, Technical

Original Use: Post box

In Use As: Post box

Date: 1925 - 1950

Coordinates: 229844, 427657

Description: Wall-mounted cast-iron post box, erected between 1924-46, having 'P&T' monogram in Gaelic script to head and with 'Jessop Davis, Enniscorthy' foundry mark to base. Bevelled surround. Still in use. Set into roughcast rendered boundary wall to the rear (west) of The White Harte public house, and to the south-east end of Pier Street, to the east/north-east of the centre of Rathmullan.

Appraisal: An attractive item of street furniture that represents an early surviving artefact of mass-produced cast-iron ware. Its survival is testament to the quality of its original design and of the materials used in its manufacturing. The modest design of the box is enhanced by the raised 'P&T' motif (Department of Posts and Telegraphs) in Celtic Revival-style script and by the raised foundry mark to the base, which enliven the appearance of this otherwise functional object. The use of Old Irish lettering represents tangible, if subtle evidence of the promotion of an indigenous national identity by the newly independent state. It was cast at the Jessop Davis Foundry (c. 1890-1964) of Enniscorthy, County Wexford. This simple piece of street furniture makes a positive contribution to the streetscape to the south-east end of Pier Street, Rathmullan, and is an integral, if subtle, element of the built heritage of the local area.



**Reg No: 40819030 Main Street, RATHMULLAN AND BALLYBOE, Rathmullan, County Donegal**

Rating: Regional

Categories of Special Interest: Architectural

Original Use: House

In Use As: House

Date: 1840 - 1870

Coordinates: 229804, 427548

Description: Attached mid-terrace three-bay two-storey house, built c. 1860, having mildly canted plan to front elevation (south). Pitched natural slate roof with projecting smooth rendered eaves course, smooth rendered chimneystack to the east/north-east end, and with cast-iron rainwater goods including downpipe with decorative cast-iron hopper to the west end of the front elevation. Square-headed window openings with stone sills, and with small six-over-three pane timber sliding sash windows at first floor level and wide six-over-three pane windows at ground floor level. Central round-headed doorway with battened timber door and plain overlight. Road-fronted to the north side of Main Street to the centre of Rathmullan. Footpath to front (south). House overlooks Lough Swilly to the south.

Appraisal: This interesting and appealing house, probably originally dating to the mid-nineteenth century, retains its early form and character. Its visual appeal and integrity are enhanced by the retention of salient fabric including natural slate roof and timber sliding sash windows. The front elevation has a mildly canted-plan following the road-alignment, which creates a distinctive structure with a strong presence in the streetscape of Rathmullan. The decorative cast-iron hopper is an interesting and rare survival that adds interest. The wide window openings at ground floor level hint that this building may have formerly add a use in addition to being a dwelling, perhaps as a public house etc. This building is one of the more interesting dwellings still extant in Rathmullan and is an addition to the built heritage of the town.

**Reg No. 40819027 Old Rathmullan Graveyard, Main Street, RATHMULLAN AND BALLYBOE, Rathmullan, DONEGAL**

Rating: Regional

Categories of Special Interest: Artistic, Historical, Social

Previous Name: Rathmullan Friary

Original Use: Graveyard/cemetery

In Use As: Graveyard/cemetery

Date: 1800 - 1940

Coordinates: 229651, 427526

Description: Graveyard (on complex irregular-plan) located to the south of the remains of Rathmullan\St. Mary's Friary (see RMP DG037-007003-), in use from c. 1800 until c. 1965. Now out of use. Contains collection of upstanding, recumbent and table-type memorials. Metal railings and/or enclosures to some memorials. Freestanding memorial to the south of site commemorating Captain William Pakenham, Captain of the Royal Navy frigate HMS Saldhana (which sunk off Ballymaddock Bay to the north in a storm in December 1811); gravemarker comprises table-type memorial having classical pilasters to corners, and with wrought-iron railings having wrought-iron posts to corners of enclosure with ball finials over. Site surrounded by partially roughcast rendered rubble stone boundary wall. Gateway to the south-west corner of site comprising a pair of ashlar gate piers having pyramidal cut stone coping over, and with wrought-iron gate. Located to the centre of Main Street, Rathmullan, overlooking Lough Swilly across road to the south.

Appraisal: This interesting and atmospheric graveyard contains an interesting collection of gravemarkers of mainly nineteenth century date. It occupies the south side of the site of Rathmullan\St. Mary's Friary (see RMP DG037-007003-), which was originally founded in 1516 for the Carmelite Order by Owen Roe MacSweeney and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The priory survived intact until 1595 when it was plundered by Bingham; the friars returned and repaired the site afterwards. Andrew Knox, Bishop of Raphoe, obtained possession of the site in 1618, and subsequently converted the nave and transept into a private dwelling. In 1706, the chancel was consecrated by Bishop Pooley as the parish church for Killygarvan. Services were discontinued here when a new parish church, St. Columb's (see 40819009), was built a short distance to the west in 1814. The dwelling probably fell into ruins during the second half of the eighteenth century after the Knox family moved to Prehen, near Derry. The graveyard itself appears to have come into use at the start of the nineteenth century. It contains a collection of upstanding, recumbent, and table-type memorials of mainly nineteenth century date (although there are some memorials dating to the 1960s), some of which are of modest artistic interest. One of the most impressive of these is a table-type memorial with classical pilasters to the corners to the south side of the enclosure. This commemorates Captain William Pakenham (died aged 29), Captain of the Royal Navy frigate HMS Saldhana, which sunk off Ballymaddock Bay to the north in a storm on the 4th of December 1811 with the loss of over 250 lives. (The Saldhana was a warship weighing 951 tons and armed with 36 canons. It was built by Temple and Sons in South Shields in 1809. The ship named after the Battle of Saldhana Bay off South Africa in 1796). William Pakenham

was the son of the second Baron Longford of Pakenham Hall, Castlepollard, County Westmeath, an illustrious military family at the time. The graveyard also contains a number of other memorials with naval and military connections including gravemarkers to Commd Fitzmaurice Acton, CMO Royal Navy (died 1920), Walter Edward Elliot (1860-190?), Lieutenant Royal Navy, Darcy Irvine, Commander Royal Navy ('died at Carralenna in 1907'), Colonel John Hewitt Jellett CMC, Royal Artillery (died 1832?), and Colonel Arn(old?) Shrewsbury Montgomery (died at Fort Royal Rathmullan in 1924). This interesting site is an interesting addition to the built heritage and social history of Rathmullan, and forms part of an interesting complex along with the remains of the friary to the centre of Rathmullan. The simple rubble stone boundary walls, and the fine gateway to the south-west corner of the site with ashlar gate piers add to the context and setting.

**Reg No.: 40819028 Main Street, RATHMULLAN AND BALLYBOE, Rathmullan, County Donegal**

Rating: Regional

Categories of Special Interest: Social Technical

Original Use: Water pump

Date: 1900 - 1920

Coordinates: 229802, 427531

Description: Freestanding cast-iron water hydrant, erected c. 1910, comprising fluted shaft on moulded base, and with moulded head having moulded spout to the north face. Cast-iron twist mechanism to the east side. Foundry mark to base, now illegible. Original cap now removed with modern domed cement cap with finial over. Located adjacent to rubble stone sea wall to the south side of Main Street, Rathmullan, close to the centre of the town. Lough Swilly shoreline adjacent to the south.

Appraisal: An attractive piece of mass produced cast-iron, which is an appealing and subtle feature in the streetscape of Rathmullan. This water hydrant is of particular importance as a reminder of the mechanisms installed for the provision of clean drinking water in the period before mains water supply systems. The various fluted details enhance the artistic design quality of the piece and indicates the equal importance of aesthetics as well as functionality. The original fluted domed cap with acorn finial over is now missing and replaced by modern cement capping mimicking the original feature. The foundry mark to the base is now illegible but it was more than likely made at the Glenfield and Kennedy Ltd. Foundry in Kilmarnock, Scotland, who were responsible for many of the cast-iron hydrants found throughout Ireland. This simple item of street furniture makes a

positive contribution to the streetscape of Rathmullan and is an addition to the built heritage and social history of the town.

## 5.6 Record of Monuments and Places

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

RMP No	Class	Townland	ITM Reference (E)	ITM Reference (N)
DG037-007----	Settlement cluster	RATHMULLAN AND BALLYBOE	629433	927515
DG037-007001-	Stone Head	RATHMULLAN AND BALLYBOE	629468	927835
DG037-007003-	Religious house - Carmelite friars	RATHMULLAN AND BALLYBOE	629598	927529
DG037-007005-	Cross-inscribed stone	RATHMULLAN AND BALLYBOE	629368	927453
DG037-023----	Cross-inscribed pillar (present location)	RATHMULLAN AND BALLYBOE	629468	927835

### RMP No.: DG037-007----

Class: Settlement cluster

Townland: RATHMULLAN AND BALLYBOE

Description: The historic settlement of Rathmullan had grown to over forty houses by the middle of the seventeenth century (Hunter 1981, 62). The seventeenth century plantation of Donegal records the existence of stopne and timber houses forming the historic town of Rathmullan which were located close to the castle of Rathmullan (DG003-007002-). The town is described as 'Near unto this house (DG037-007002-) there is a village erected, consisting of 15 stone houses and 30 timber houses and cabins, thatched, inhabited with Britons' (Treadwell 1954-5, 42). The present street plan and houses in the centre and E quadrant of Rathmullan are probably built on the footprint of the seventeenth century plantation town of Rathmullan.

**RMP No.: DG037-007001-**

Class: Stone head

Townland: RATHMULLAN AND BALLYBOE

Description: The tracery of the three-light E window of the chancel of Rathmullan Priory (DG037-007001-) fell in the later 19th century (Batt c. 1870, 181). The exterior is crowned by a moulded hood-mould without-turned stops terminating in stylised vine-leaves. The hood-mould keystone is preserved at the parish priest's house. It is crowned with a mitred figure, the framed niche for which still survives above the E window.

**RMP No.: DG037-007003-**

Class: Religious house - Carmelite friars

Townland: RATHMULLAN AND BALLYBOE

Description: Rathmullan Priory: Founded in 1516 for the Carmelite Order by Owen Roe MacSweeney and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the priory survived intact until 1595 when it was plundered by Bingham; the friars returned and repaired the place. In 1601, the buildings consisted of a church and steeple, cloister, hall and three chambers. Andrew Knox, Bishop of Raphoe, having obtained possession of the site, converted the nave and transept into a private dwelling, preserving the tower and chancel as his chapel (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 291). His initials and the date 1618 over the hall doorway indicate when these alterations took place. In 1706, the chancel was consecrated by Bishop Pooley as the parish church in place of that at Killygarvan, which had fallen into ruin (Batt 1889, 42). Services were discontinued there when a new parish church, St. Columb's, was built in 1814 (Leslie 1940, 94). The house probably fell into ruins in the later 18th century after the Knox family moved to Prehen near Derry (Batt 1889, 43; Anonymous 1892, 22, 27, 31; Rowan 1979, 406). The ruins testify to at least two major building phases. The original 16th century priory consisted of a church, comprising chancel, central tower, nave and transept and the N and E domestic ranges. Much of the former survives but only the N, E and a section of the W walls of the latter remain. The early 17th century alterations included the conversion of the nave and transept into a three storey, L-shaped, fortified house with the addition of a gabled hallway, of equal height, in the re-entrant angle. The chancel was used as the bishop's private chapel. The repointing of wall-ends and faces was carried out after the house had fallen into ruins; the two set-back buttresses at the NW corner of the nave may have been added and some of the windows blocked-up at this period. The original 16th century church and domestic ranges are built of rubble with ashlar quoins and dressings in grey sandstone with characteristic 16th century punch tooling.

Chancel: The lower courses of the E and S walls are battered. The tracery of the three-light E window fell in the later 19th century (Batt c. 1870, 181). The exterior is crowned by a moulded hood-mould without-turned stops terminating in stylised vine-leaves. The hood-mould keystone is preserved at the parish priest's house. It is crowned with a mitred figure, the framed niche for which still survives above the E window. The interior of the E window has a double hollow-chamfered rear-arch. There is a two-light pointed window with double-chamfered rear-arch in the S wall. The mullion is missing and it has a vesica-shaped opening above the pointed lights. The hood-mould has two head terminals. The jamb of a wall-press or piscina-niche is visible in the masonry below the window. The doorway to the W was undoubtedly broken through for public access when the chapel was used as the parish church. The segment-headed rear-arch of a blocked-up doorway in the N wall is partly obscured by a buttress-like addition built against its exterior N face. The interior is hidden beneath a plaster coat. The doorway would originally have communicated with the sacristy. A secondary stone support of unknown function and c. 1.5m high, survives along the inner S 2m of the E gable.

Tower: The four-storey tower is wide transversely but narrow from E to W; its width is due to the setback rectangular projection on the S, which houses the spiral staircase. The tower slightly oversailed the roofs of the nave and chancel, the coping for which was built into its E and W faces. The E and W arches of two double-chamfered orders are narrow. The inner order springs from moulded imposts above inverted, tapering, half-octagon corbels which terminate in a small moulded band now defaced. A single vine-leaf enriches that on the NE pier. The arches rise from a chamfered plinth, visible at ground level on the inner faces of the NW and NE piers. The tower had timber floors. A rectangular window at second storey level in the E wall overlooks the high altar. The third storey was lit by similar windows. The fourth storey, surviving to sill height, had a two-light window in its E and W walls; the sills alone remain. There is a pointed doorway with chamfered jambs in the W face just below the roof coping; this probably provided access to a pulpit and/or loft. Access to the domestic ranges was via a door in the N wall of the tower. Beside it, in the NW pier, is a wall-press. In the E face of this pier beside the SE corner and c. 1.2m above present ground level, is a circular sinking, 11cms in diameter and 6cms deep. There is a corresponding sinking opposite it in the W face of the NE pier, the upper section having an entrance-chase to facilitate the easy insertion or removal of a cross beam; its exact function is unknown.

Nave: The nave and transept were significantly altered c. 1618 and converted into an L-shaped house with additional hallway. The walls of the nave and transept were raised to accommodate three storeys. The moulding profiles of the door and secondary windows are typically Scottish in

character, as are the two angle turrets on moulded corbels with circular pistol loops below the windows which were added to the N and S corners of the nave. The original line of the W gable of the church is visible in its interior face. The W door was replaced by a window (now blocked-up) of which the N jamb and sill are missing; at the N corner of this wall is a small blocked-up, rectangular window with chamfered trim. The second-storey window is also blocked-up; that at third-storey level has lost its moulded dressings. The gable is crowned with two brick chimneys; these were, undoubtedly decorative features as there are no visible traces of flues or fireplaces in this wall. The main fireplaces were in the N wall; that at ground floor and second-storey-level were subsequently built up to accommodate smaller fireplaces. Only fragmentary sections of the fireplace above them on the third-storey remain; supported on corbels, it was built out from the inner face of the N wall. The jambs, sill and W ingoing of an original 16th century two-light window, now blocked-up, survive about midway along the exterior face of the N wall. Apart from a small W projection from the tower, the remainder of the N wall has fallen and the exposed faces and wall-ends have been repainted. Both windows in the remaining section of the S wall of the nave are blocked up; that on the second-storey has lost its moulded dressings.

Transept: The E, S and return of the W wall rise from battered lower courses; the S gable retains its 17th century coping. The jambs and sill of the twolight window in the S gable at ground-floor level are probably 16th Century features, but the opes have obviously been reduced in height, re-using the original arched heads surmounted by a lintel. The multi-moulded three-light window with horizontal hood-mould in the storey above was probably taken from some other part of the priory. The third-storey gable window has chamfered dressings. The E wall originally had two arched altar recesses, each lit by a two-light, ogee-headed window. Between them are the remains of a double piscina set in a hood-moulded recess; the S piscina is missing. The N and S engaged columns with corresponding spandrels are missing. The altar recesses were partly demolished and rebuilt as simple splayed ingoings with segment-headed rear-arches for the windows. On the S window sill are two 16th century hood-mould stop panels preserving weathered, animal carving and stylised vineleaves. One of these, formerly set in one of the gables, has been incorrectly described as the McSwyne coat of arms (OS Memoirs; O'Flanagan 1927, 20; Moran ed. I, 1873, 213; JRSAI 45 (1915), 223). There are three blocked-up windows devoid of cut stone at second-storey level of the E wall of the transept. Only a small section of the original W transept wall remains at the SW corner; it has a blocked-up 17th century window in the secondstorey. The remaining section of W wall was replaced by one provided with fireplaces and flues. The inner wall-face has completely fallen away and subsequent rebuilding and patching hinders the proper identification of features; there was certainly a fireplace (partly built-up) at ground-floor level. The main entrance to the house is in the

ground-floor of the three-storey gabled hallway. Over the door are carved in relief, the initials AN KN SC and the almost illegible date 1618, which flanked the now effaced coat of arms of the Knox family (OS Memoirs; Anonymous 1892, 12). Above the door, beside a chimney breast on the second-storey is a small machicolation incorporated in the side of the projecting flue supported on moulded corbels.

Domestic buildings: the E range is represented by the ivy-covered N gable and E wall with projecting garderobe at the NE corner. At the S end of the E wall is a blocked-up, single-light window with ogeehead; this room was undoubtedly the sacristy. To the N is another window, transomed, with two ogeeheaded lights and internal rebates for wooden shutters; the mullions are missing. A large opening at ground floor level in the E gable is partly blocked by a secondary wall. Extending over the whole length of the upper floor was the dormitory of which two narrow splayed loops are discernible in the ivy-covered E wall. A door in the NE corner gave access to the garderobe. The main window in the N gable is of two lights, transomed with ogee-heads. Though the mullions and central spandrels are missing, the double rebated transom indicates that the window had wooden shutters. A mural stairs, opening through the E ingoing of this window, led to an upper storey of the garderobe and/or out onto the roof; the hanging eye for a wooden door projects from the wall at the window entrance. The inner face of the N gable was set out on corbels to accommodate the mural stairs. The garderobe had wooden floors and was lit by small splayed loops; the discharge opening is blocked. The W end of the N gable, though rebuilt and pointed, must have continued westwards, for the NW corner with battered lower courses still remains, the N section of the present W wall being the W limit of the N range. The S section of this wall is secondary and of indeterminate date. It has a small horizontal rectangular window composed of re-used dressings and a segment-headed rear-arch of a blocked-up window or door.



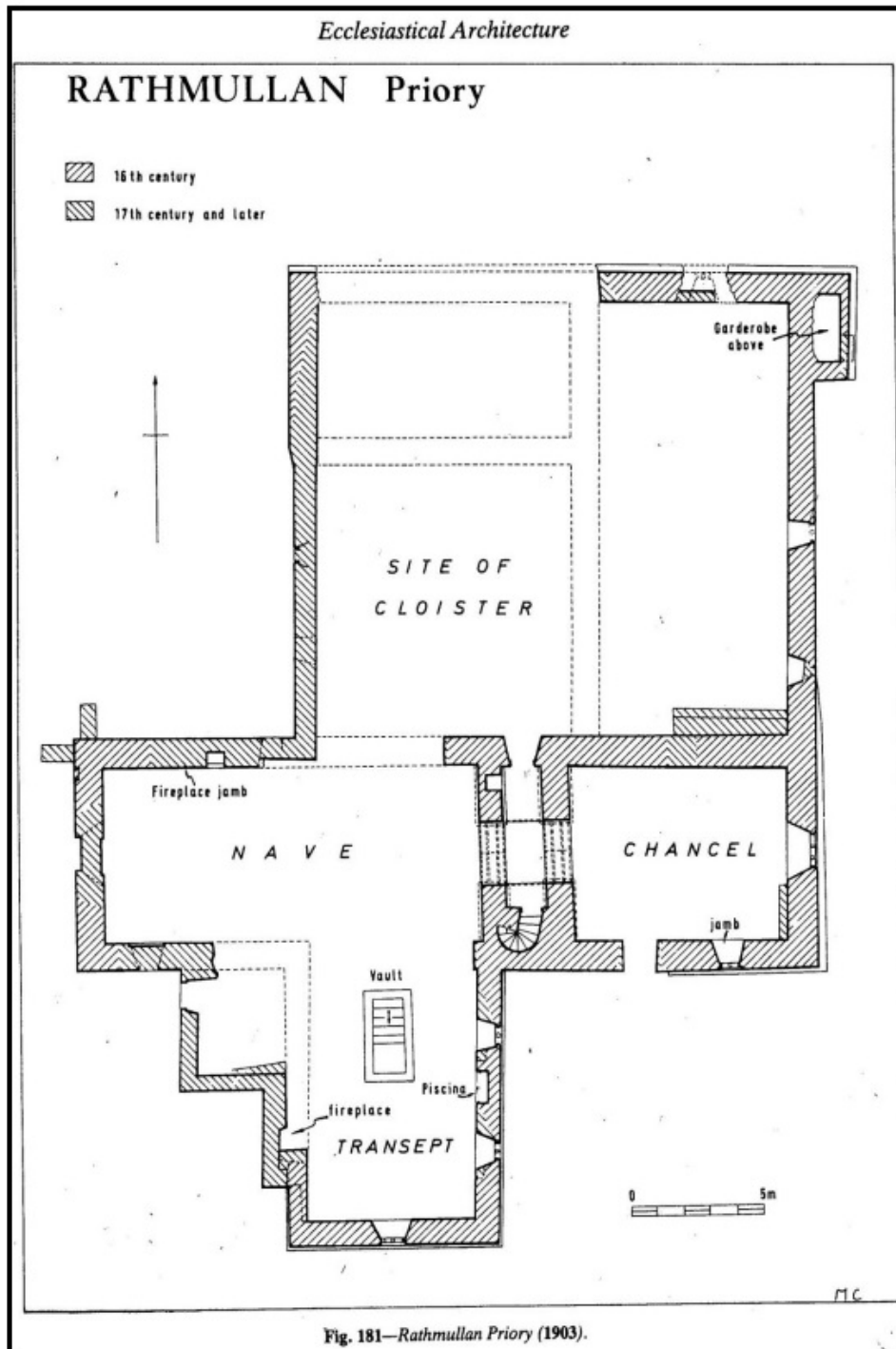


Figure 3: Plan of Priory taken from the Archaeological Survey of County Donegal (1983).

RMP No.: DG037-007005-

Class: Cross-inscribed stone

Townland: RATHMULLAN AND BALLYBOE

Description: A decorated boulder has, since the completion of the survey, come to light on the beach just S of the town of Rathmullan. Apparently, the stone was originally located in or on a low cliff, which is being eroded by the sea. It has now settled on some other boulders on the shoreline. The decoration which shows a 'horned' figure in a cruciform position is c. 0.55m in length (Per. Comm. Fergus O'Farrell). It is possible that the stone originally formed part of a more complex monument. The stone has been moved to the grassy verge on the N edge of the beach.

**RMP No.: DG037-023----**

Class: Cross-inscribed pillar (present location)

Townland: RATHMULLAN AND BALLYBOE

Description: Marked as a standing stone on the 2nd and 3rd editions of the OS 6-inch maps, this slab (DG028-012001-) has now been removed to the grounds of St. Joseph's Church in Rathmullen (DG037-023). It consists of a regularly shaped slab 1.6m x .36m. On one face a Maltese cross inside a circle has been incised, but only faint traces of the upper portions can be seen. It was originally located at the position outlined above, allegedly beside the entrance to a souterrain (DG028-012002-) (NMI) but no trace of this is visible now. The site is in gently rising pasture.

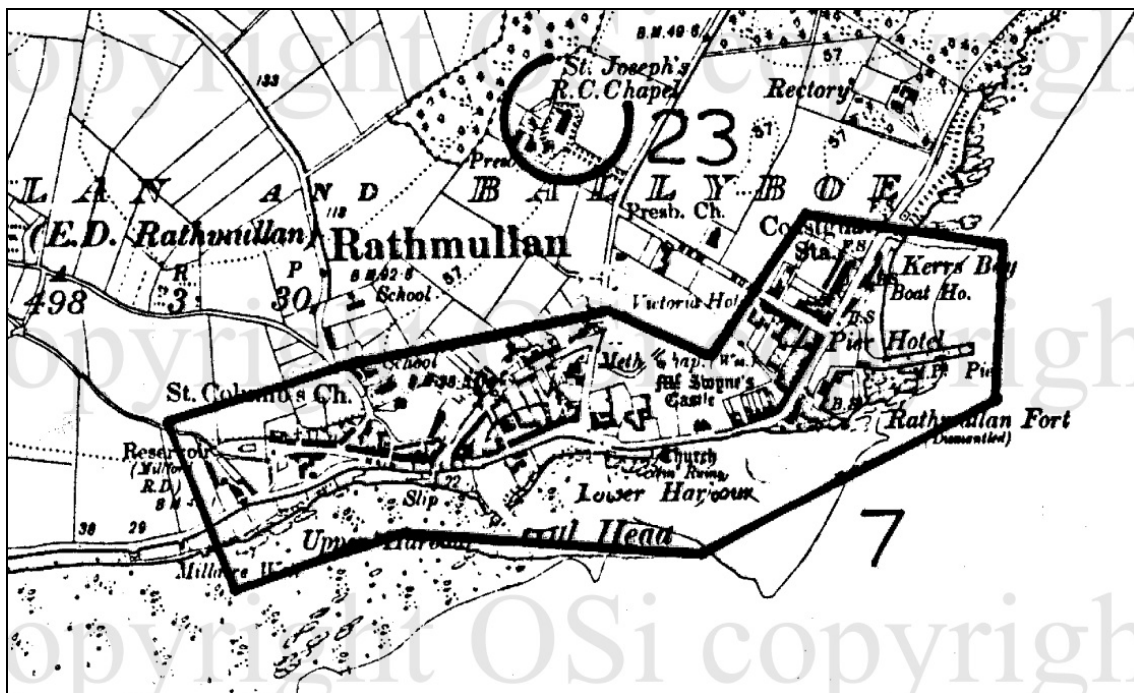


Figure 4: RMP Map 037 showing extend of historic town of Rathmullan (source: [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).

## 5.7 The National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files

The topographical survey up to 2010 for the townland of Rathmullan and Ballyboe was consulted on Heritage Maps.ie and produced no results.

## 5.8 Aerial Photography

Aerial photography of the development area was consulted. The main source was 'Google Earth' which clearly showed an aerial view of the proposed development area at Rathmullan. All areas can be seen – Rathmullan Abbey has now been cleared of vegetation as part of the conservation works in 2019. No archaeological features were noted in the aerial photography.



Figure 5: Aerial photograph of the PDA in Rathmullan (source: [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).

## 5.9 Cartographic Evidence

The following section considers major maps of County Donegal with reference to the townland of Rathmullan and Ballyboe.

### 5.9.1 Ordnance Survey c. 1838 edition (6" map)

The proposed development area at Rathmullan can be seen in considerable detail in this early Ordnance Survey Map. The present street lay out is present including the Main Street which facing on to Lough Swilly. Rathmullan Abbey is indicated as 'McSwynes Castle', and the graveyard is indicated in the immediate vicinity of the castle. The Battery is also indicated as is 'Ordnance

Ground'. No previously undiscovered or unidentified features of an archaeological nature were noted within the development site or in the direct vicinity on this map.



Figure 6: Ordnance Survey Map c. 1838 of the PDA in Rathmullan (source: [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).

### 5.9.2 Ordnance Survey c. 1900 edition (25" map)

The proposed development area can also be clearly seen on the second edition Ordnance Survey map dated to c. 1900. The streetscape and garden plots of Rathmullan have remained the same, with the addition of Pier Hotel at the junction of Main Street and Pier Road. Pier Road does not feature on the first Ordnance Survey map and was constructed during the intervening years in which the maps were produced. The most notable difference between this and the earlier Ordnance Survey map is the increase in buildings along Pier Road and the development of Pier Road. The Abbey is now indicated as 'Church (in ruins)' and 'McSwyne's Castle' is indicated beside on another. No previously undiscovered or unidentified features of an archaeological nature were noted within the development site or in the direct vicinity on this map.

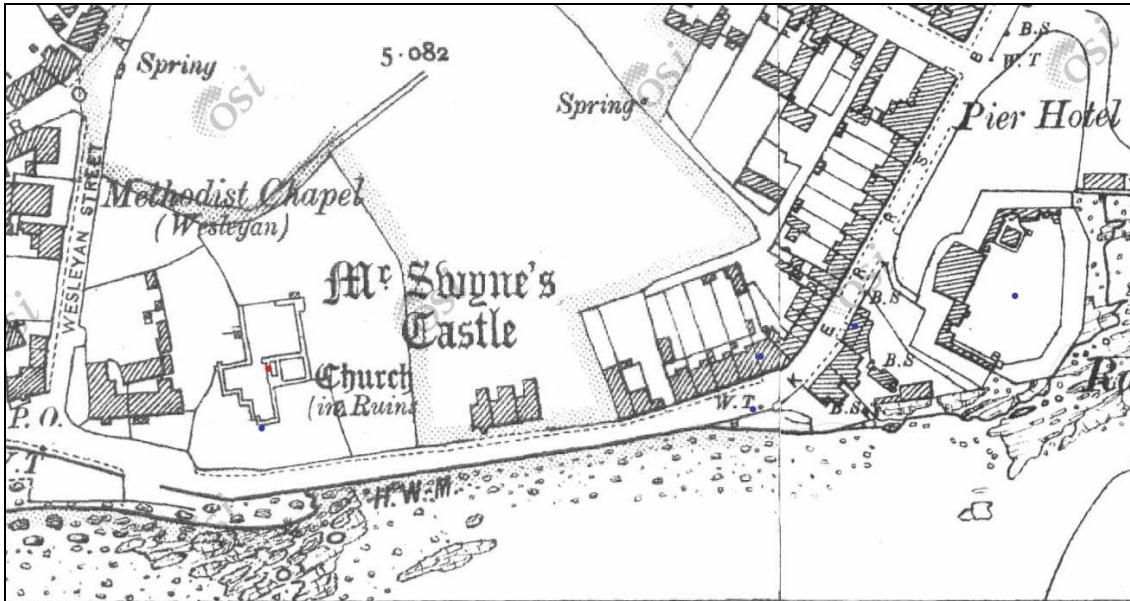


Figure 7: Ordnance Survey Map c.1900 of the PDA in Rathmullan (source: [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).

### 5.9.3 Down Survey of Ireland 1656-1658

Down Survey Map was produced in the years 1656-1658, the Down Survey of Ireland is the first ever detailed land survey on a national scale anywhere in the world. The survey sought to measure all the land to be forfeited by the Catholic Irish to facilitate its redistribution to Merchant Adventurers and English soldiers.

The town of Rathmullan is present on this map as a cluster of buildings. Amongst the several buildings indicated, is Rathmullan Abbey which named on the parish map as a castle 'The Towne & Castle of Ramallen'. A road can be seen traversing the town. In the barony map the town is named 'Ramullen' and numerous buildings, including the Abbey/castle, are indicated facing the sea front, where boats are illustrated.



Figure 8: Down Survey Barony map of Rathmullan (source: [www.downsurvey.ie](http://www.downsurvey.ie)).



Figure 9: Down Survey Parish map of Rathmullan (source: [www.downsurvey.ie](http://www.downsurvey.ie)).

## 6 RESULTS OF THE SITE INSPECTION

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### 6.1 Methodology

Site inspection took place on the 13th of June 2022 and included a site walkover of the work areas/proposed development areas. Site conditions were good during the visit and all areas were accessible, except for the proposed location of Work Area 02 Community Hub which was entirely fenced but could be viewed from the adjacent pavement/road.

The proposed works are within the zone of archaeological notification for various recorded monuments including RMP DG037-007003-Religious house - Carmelite friars (classified as a National Monument), and RMP No.: DG037-007---- Settlement cluster. Each of the proposed work areas that comprise or are adjacent to these monuments was inspected and did not reveal any previously unrecorded material of an archaeological nature.

### 6.2 Results

#### 6.2.1 Work Area 01 – Rathmullan Battery Fort

The proposed works will involve the renewal and repurposing of the Battery and attendant lands. The proposed works area encompasses the complex of building associated the Battery built in c. 1813, which is a recorded architectural structure NIAH Reg No.: 40819002 Rathmullan Coastal Battery. The proposal is for a new building within the walls of the historic Battery with an internal area of 287m<sup>2</sup>. This will enable a roof terrace / viewing platform of 388m<sup>2</sup>. A canopied area along the edge of the new building will create a covered area of 50m<sup>2</sup>.

Between the proposed new building and the enclosing walls of the Battery to the south an open area of 770m<sup>2</sup> will be available as a public amenity space. The historic Blockhouse will be repurposed as an interpretation space as part of the visitor and educational experience. A new stair and lift installation will occupy 20m<sup>2</sup> of space on each floor. During the site inspection no material of an archaeological material was noted in Work Area 01.

The proposed development of historic Glacis associated with the Battery is designed to improve use and community interaction with this green space. A Glacis in military engineering is an artificial slope as part of a medieval castle or in early modern fortresses. The repurposing of the Glacis is intended to restore the status of this important historic feature as an essential component in the reading and understanding of the Battery. Non-essential clutter has accumulated over decades of use changing and obscuring the character of this historic green space. It is proposed to construct a

pedestrian footpath in a SE to NW direction through the Glacis and a second path will be erected in a N-S direction along the southern boundary of the Glacis. The proposed footpaths will be bridged across the moat of the Battery and provide access to the Battery. A comprehensive walkover was conducted of the Glacis area and no material of an archaeological nature was noted.



Figure 10: Proposed development plan for Rathmullan Battery Fort.





**Plate 2: NE facing view of the interior of the Battery – proposed area of the new building and public space.**



**Plate 3: East facing view of the interior of the Battery.**



Plate 4: Interior of the blockhouse building.

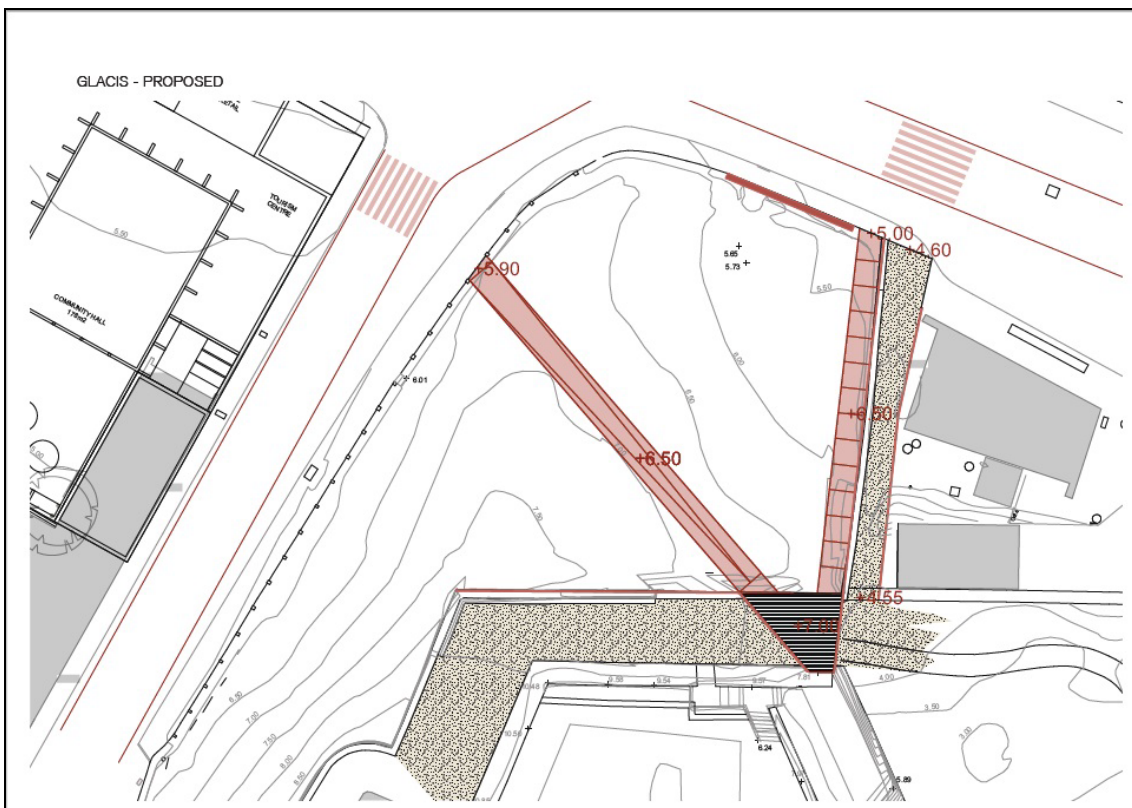


Figure 11: Plan of the proposed improvements including the development of two footpaths as indicated, through the Glacis area adjacent to the Battery.



**Plate 5: South facing view of the Glacis through which a footpath is proposed.**



**Plate 6: East facing view of the southern edge of the Glacis in which a footpath is proposed.**



**Plate 7: East facing view of the Glacis viewed from the roof of the Battery blockhouse.**

### 6.2.2 Work Area 02 - Community Hub

It is proposed to erect on a brownfield site a new building where the old Pier Hotel was before it burned down. The building will function as a Community Hub a space with digital capacities, community office/meeting space and opportunities for start-ups, collaborative, and remote working. The site comprises a sub-rectangular plot at the corner of Main Street and Pier Road, the site was covered in low grass cover and is fenced on all sides. Several derelict properties along Main Street bound the site to the south and to the north the site is bounded by dwelling/commercial properties. No features were noted within the proposed site of the Community Hub, and the site has been cleared of any residual material from the Pier Hotel. During the site inspection no material of an archaeological material was noted in Work Area 02.



Figure 12: Location of the proposed Community Hub at the junction of Main Street and Pier Road.

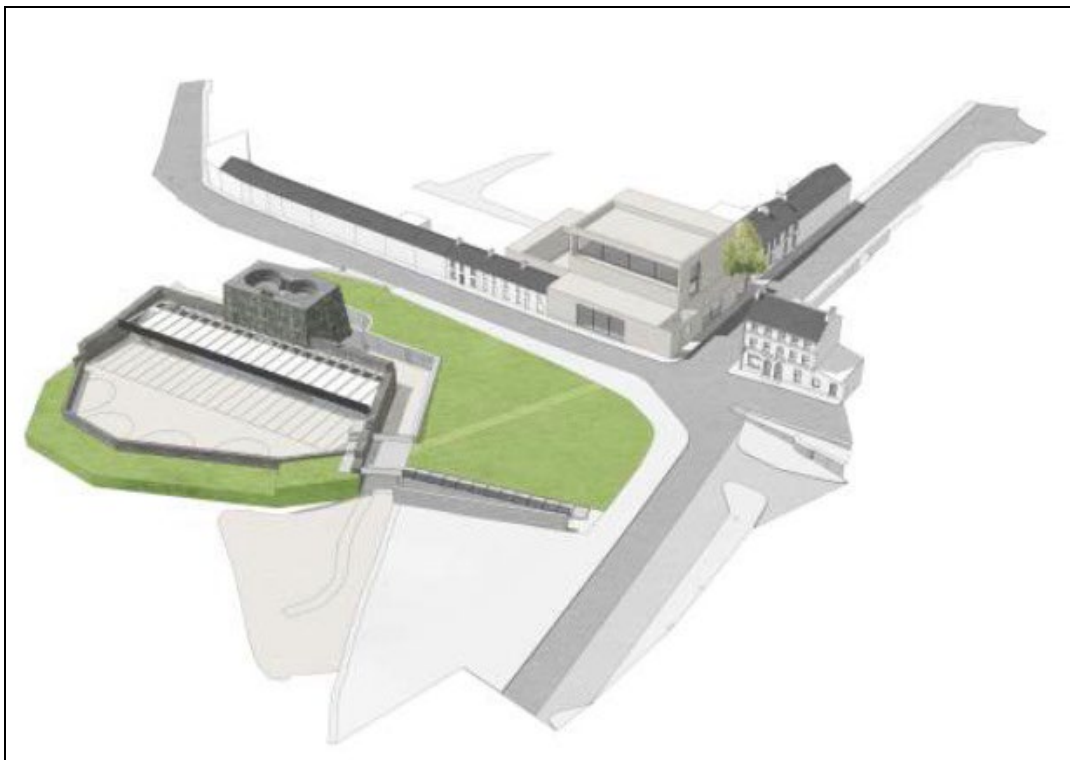


Figure 13: Projected drawing of the proposed development at the Community Hub, Battery, and Glacis.



Plate 8: West facing view of the proposed location of the Community Hub.



Plate 9: NW facing view of the location for the proposed Community Hub.

### 6.2.3 Work Area 03 - Rathmullan Abbey

The proposed enhancement of the Abbey is intended to improve accessibility to and within the historic monument thereby enabling and encouraging its public use. The principle intervention will consist of a new level floor plane which will occupy and give access to the key spaces within the Abbey, namely the Nave, Transept, Chancel and Cloister. The aim of the interventions is to improve accessibility, enabling opportunities for public events and tourism. The proposed new floor will be lightweight and is designed to be non-intrusive by erecting a stone floor on plastic pedestals which will involve no groundworks and minimum impact on the subsurface archaeological remains whilst providing the desired accessibility to the historic building. To accommodate the floor installation a limited amount of removal of the accumulation of soils in the corners of the Nave, Transept, Chancel and possibly the Cloister area may be required to accommodate the new stone floor surface. The floor will be inserted allowing for a space in the footprint of the cloister and a buffer will be maintained around the existing extant graves within the Abbey, which include headstones, ledgers, and a substantial tomb structure within the transept.

In tandem with the proposed interior floor, it is also proposed to enhance exterior access to the building by improving the existing footpaths within the graveyard to the south of the Abbey. The existing footpath and access at the graveyard pedestrian gate will be improved. A new path is proposed for the graveyard which will traverse the graveyard in a NW to SE direction in an area of the graveyard where there are no extant graves visible. This additional path is designed to provide disabled access and will be raised over the current level of the graveyard.

Detail of the proposed works at Rathmullen Abbey:

- The works to the Abbey involve providing access and walkways. All the works will be minimal and will involve techniques and materials that can be easily removed without leaving a trace.
- External gravel pathways will be laid on a geotextile material that will separate the gravel from the existing material under the pathway.
- Within the Abbey, stone slabs will be laid over the existing undulating surface. This will be achieved by laying a geotextile on the existing surface, laying clean crushed stone (specification SR21 formerly known as Clause 804 material) to take out the undulations. The maximum expected depth is 150mm.

- Directly on top of this crushed stone, a proprietary support pedestal to support the stone slab will be laid. The proposed pedestal (Ryno-Pave) is self-levelling and will take out imperfections in levels of the crushed stone supporting it.
- Open joints will be maintained between stone slabs to allow rainwater to continue to drain to the surface below through the crushed stone.
- The gravel band to the edges adjacent the historic walls will be contained by a metal edge will be secured by metal pins into the hardcore.



Figure 14: Ryno-Pave Pedestals.

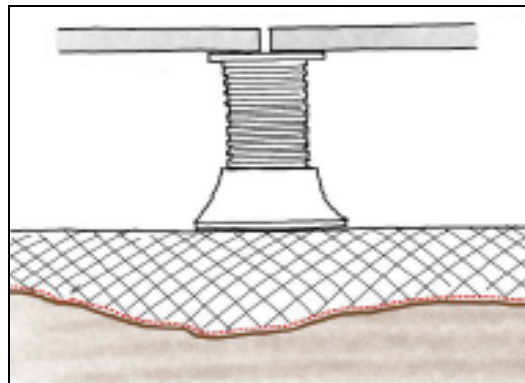


Figure 15: Pedestal on Hardcore on Geotextile on existing ground.



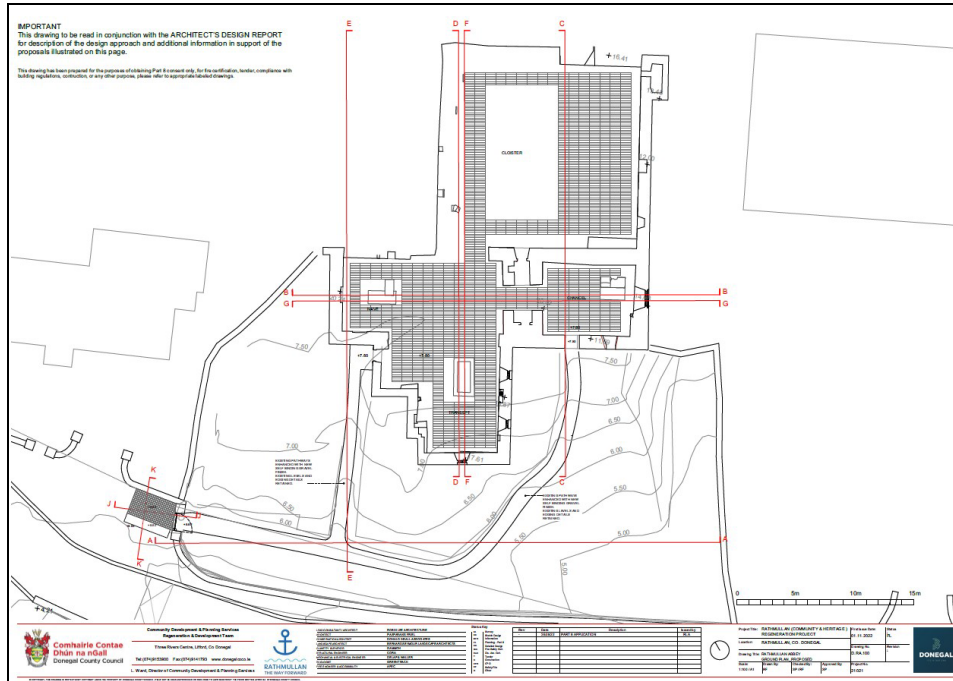


Figure 16: Proposed floor layout for Rathmullan Abbey.



Figure 17: Projection of proposed floor within the Nave of Rathmullan Abbey.



**Plate 10: South facing view of the Transept.**



**Plate 11: East facing view of the Chancel.**



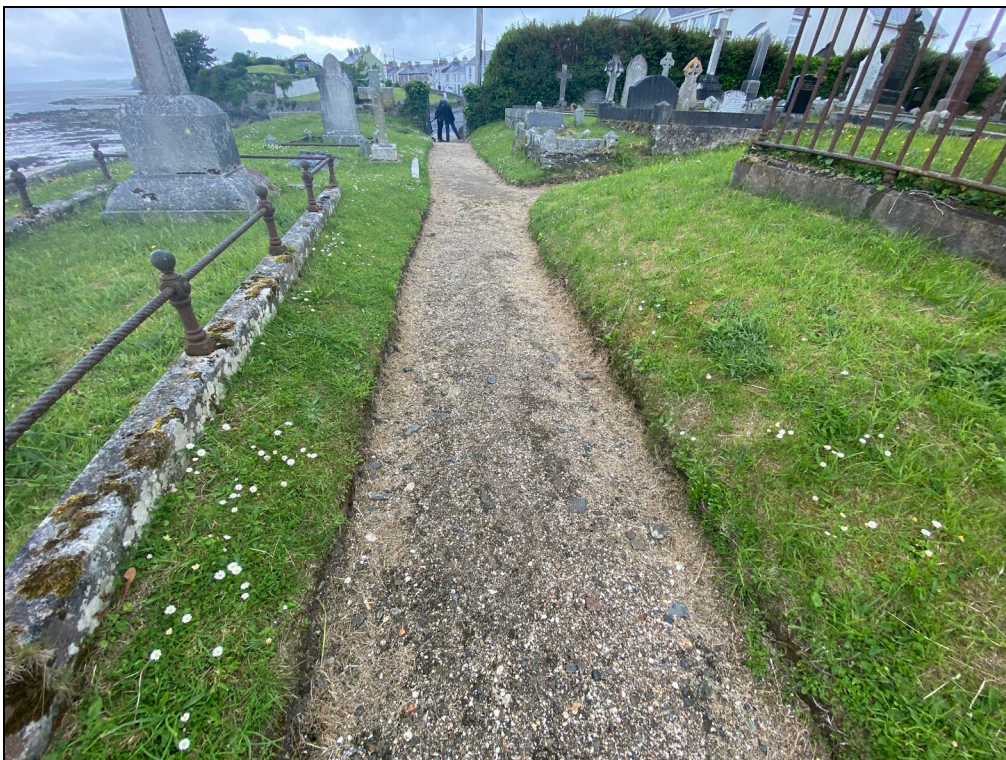
**Plate 12: South facing view of the accumulation of soil in the corner of the transept.**



**Plate 13: West facing view of the cloister area.**



**Plate 14: South facing view from the cloister area looking towards the tower.**



**Plate 15: West facing view of the existing view of the existing footpath within the graveyard.**



Plate 16: NE facing view of the entrance to McSwyne's Castle/Abbey and the existing footpath.



Plate 17: NW facing view of the existing footpaths within the graveyard which are proposed to be upgraded.

### 6.2.4 Work Area 04 - Public Realm

Material improvement and enhancement of the existing road and pedestrian infrastructure between the junction at Main Street/Weslayan street and Kerrs Bay/Pier Road to create a new shared public realm, streetscape environment and synergy of heritage language connecting the Abbey and the Battery.

The subject site comprises existing road and pavement in the urban centre of Rathmullan. The proposed public realm enhancement works are centred in the following streets: Main Street/Weslayan Street junction to Kerrs Bay/Pier Road junction, for the length of Main Street. The area proposed for enhancement traverses, in a west to east direction, the Zone of Archaeological Notification for RMP DG037-007003-Religious house - Carmelite friars and RMP No.: DG037-007---- Settlement cluster. Each area was comprehensively inspected for any previously unrecorded archaeological material, nothing that had not previously been recorded was noted during the site walkover of Work Area 04.

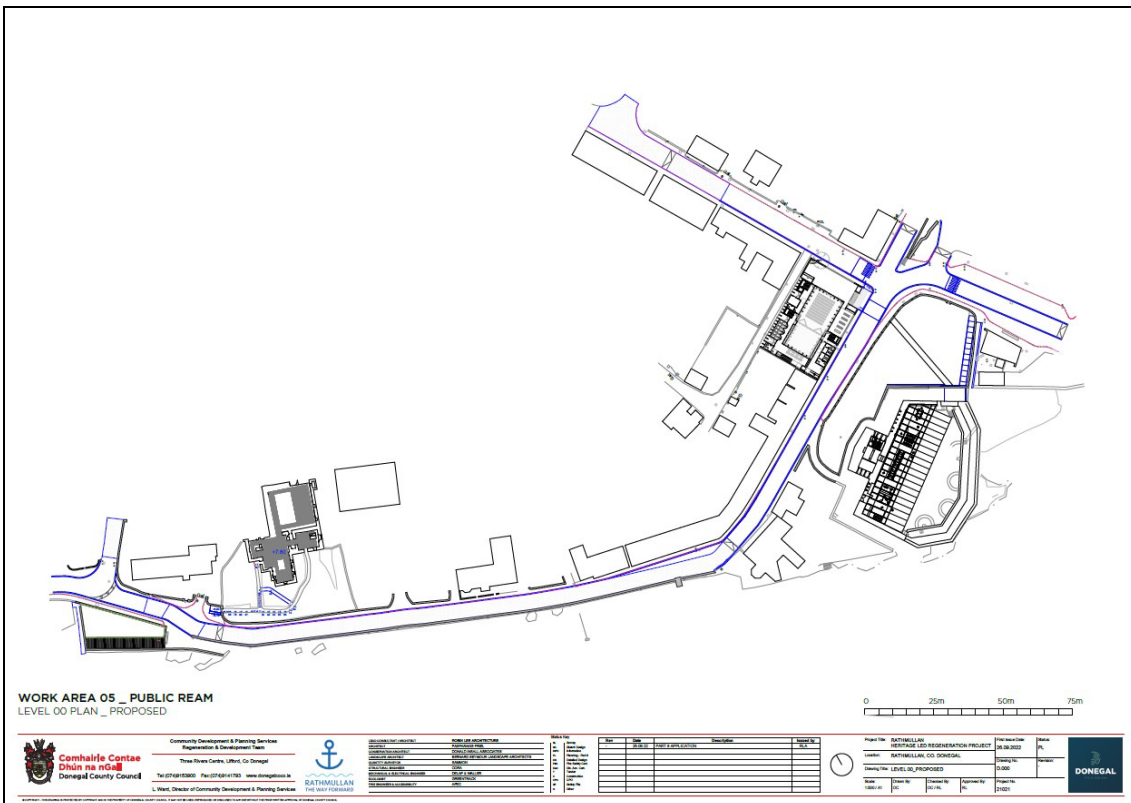


Figure 18: Plan of the proposed public realm enhancement scheme on Main Street and Pier Road.



**Plate 18: West facing view of Main Street with the Abbey visible to the right.**



**Plate 19: East facing view of Main Street with the Glacis and Battery located to the right.**

### 6.2.5 Work Area 05 - Public Amenity Space

The proposed works will involve the formation of a small public amenity space near the slipway opposite the Abbey. The site is a small plot, sub-rectangular in plan and it was covered in high grass growth during the site inspection. The area is bounded by mortared stone walls and an information panel is located directly adjacent to the eastern boundary. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted during the site walkover of Work Area 05.



**Figure 19: East facing view of the proposed amenity space at the western end of Main Street.**





**Plate 20: NE facing view of the proposed public amenity space.**



**Plate 21: West facing view of the proposed public amenity space.**

## 7 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

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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.

### 7.2 Potential direct Impacts on Recorded Archaeological Monuments

Several recorded archaeological monuments were identified directly within the proposed development area. There will be no direct negative impacts on the known cultural heritage resource.

#### 7.2.1 Potential direct Impacts on unrecorded Archaeological Monuments

No features of archaeological potential were identified within the proposed development area during the site walkover. However, should subsurface archaeological material be present 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.

### 7.2.2 Potential direct Impacts Architectural Sites

Several Protected Structures or NIAH site are within the vicinity of the proposed development works. No previously unrecorded vernacular features were identified during the site inspection. No architectural sites will be directly impacted on.

### 7.2.3 'Do Nothing scenario'

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

### 7.2.4 'Worst Case' scenario'

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

## 7.3 Potential Visual Impacts on Setting

Impacts on setting are primarily visual and examine the effect of the proposed public realm 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.

### 7.3.1 Archaeology Sites

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

### 7.3.2 Architectural Sites

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

## 8 CONCLUSION

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The proposed development is within the Zone of Archaeological Notification of recorded monuments RMP DG037-007003-Religious house - Carmelite friars and RMP No.: DG037-007---- Settlement cluster. The proposed development area also encompasses a recorded architectural structure NIAH Reg No.: 40819002 Rathmullan Coastal Battery.

Archaeological site walkover took place on the 13th of June 2022 on foot of a request from County Donegal Planning Department for an Archaeological Impact Assessment Report for the proposed Rathmullan (Community & Heritage) Regeneration Project. During the site walkover no previously unidentified features or finds of archaeological significance were noted.

There is a possibility of subsurface archaeological remains surviving in the location of the proposed works adjacent to or within the Zone of Archaeological Notification for RMP DG037-007003-Religious house - Carmelite friars (classified as a National Monument), and RMP No.: DG037-007---- Settlement cluster. Proposed works in these areas could impact negatively on previously unidentified archaeological artefacts, features, or deposits.

## 9 IMPACTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

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The proposed Rathmullan (Community & Heritage) Regeneration Project involves five proposed Work Areas: 01 Rathmullan Battery Fort; 02 Community Hub; 03 Rathmullan Abbey; 04 Public Realm; and 05 Public Amenity Space. The proposed enhancement works will have a positive visual impact on the archaeological heritage and architectural features of Rathmullan historic town.

### **Work Areas 01 to 05**

All Work Areas are within the Zone of Archaeological Notification (ZAN) for RMP No.: DG037-007---- Settlement cluster. There is low to moderate potential for archaeological remains associated with RMP No.: DG037-007---- Settlement cluster. The proposed works within ZAN may have a low to moderate potential for impact on archaeological remains that may survive subsurface. It is therefore recommended that periodic archaeological monitoring and inspections should be undertaken in all Work Areas within the ZAN for RMP No.: DG037-007---- Settlement cluster should be conducted by a suitably qualified archaeologist, under license to the Planning and Heritage Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, with provision being made

for full recording, preservation *in situ* or excavation of any archaeological features or deposits which may be exposed.

#### **Work Areas 01, 04 & 05.**

The proposed development Work Areas 01 Rathmullan Battery Fort, 04 Public Realm and 05 Public Amenity Space are within or adjacent to recorded architectural structure NIAH Reg No.: 40819002 Rathmullan Coastal Battery. It is therefore recommended that periodic archaeological monitoring and inspections should be undertaken in all Work Areas in proximity to Battery should be conducted by a suitably qualified archaeologist, under license to the Planning and Heritage Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, with provision being made for full recording, preservation *in situ* or excavation of any archaeological features or deposits which may be exposed.

#### **Work Areas 03, 04 & 05**

Work Areas 03 Rathmullan Abbey, 04 Public Realm and 05 Public Amenity are within or intersect with the Zone of Archaeological Notification of recorded monument Rathmullen Abbey RMP DG037-007003-Religious house - Carmelite friars.

Work Areas 03 Rathmullan Abbey and 04 Public Realm have high archaeological potential for impacting on any subsurface works associated with RMP DG037-007003-Religious house - Carmelite friars and subsurface works may uncover or disturb archaeological remains. Therefore, it is recommended that Work Areas 03 Rathmullan Abbey and 04 Public Realm of the proposed scheme be subject to a programme of licenced archaeological monitoring during all groundworks in the vicinity of Rathmullen Abbey and Graveyard to identify any possible subsurface archaeological remains and recommend a method for mitigation that may involve full recording, preservation *in situ* or excavation of any archaeological features or deposits which may be exposed.

The existing pathways linking the original entrance gate to the Abbey will be enhanced through the upgrade of gravel surfacing to self-binding gravel to enhance access to the monument. The enhancement of the existing footpath and the proposed design for such enhancement should mitigate against intrusive works that would have negative permanent impact on the subsurface archaeology within the graveyard. It is recommended that a suitably qualified archaeologist should be consulted regarding the proposed pathways enhancement design, including proposed materials to be used. Following consultation with the appointed archaeologist and the National Monuments Service it may be deemed that ground works associated with the upgrading of existing paths,

should be monitored under license to the Planning and Heritage Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, with provision being made for full recording, preservation *in situ* or excavation of any archaeological features or deposits which may be exposed.

The insertion of a proposed floor within the Abbey will have high impact on subsurface archaeological remains which may exist within the interior of the Abbey, however the design for the proposed floor will involve no subsurface works in the installation of the floor, and as such will have low to moderate impact on the archaeology. The removal of accumulated material from the corners of the nave, chancel and transept to accommodate the installation of the proposed floor may have a negative effect on archaeological material and as such a suitably qualified archaeologist should excavate this material under license to the Planning and Heritage Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, with provision being made for full recording, preservation *in situ* or excavation of any archaeological features or deposits which may be exposed.

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

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## 11 GLOSSARY OF IMPACTS

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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.

