

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCREENING
ASSESSMENT
AT
PÁIRCEANNA NA BHAILE, TOWNPARKS,
CARRICK ON SHANNON,**

COUNTY LEITRIM

ON BEHALF OF: LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

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CONTENTS

CONTENTS	I
List of Figures.....	ii
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 General	1
1.2 The Development	1
2 RESULTS OF SCREENING ASSESSMENT	3
3 RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER STUDIES	5
4 REFERENCES	6

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1 Site location
- Figure 2 Plan of the proposed development area
- Figure 3 Extract from archaeology.ie showing recorded monuments and proposed development area
- Figure 4 Extract from 25-inch OS map of 1907–9 showing proposed development area

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

The following report details an initial archaeological screening assessment, which has been undertaken as part of a proposed residential development. The proposed development area is located within the townland of Townparks, Carrick on Shannon, County Leitrim (Figure 1, ITM 594161/800062). This assessment has been carried out in order to ascertain the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological and historical resource that may exist within the area and identify whether further studies are required in order to define potential impacts. The assessment was undertaken by Jacqui Anderson of IAC Archaeology, on behalf of Leitrim County Council.

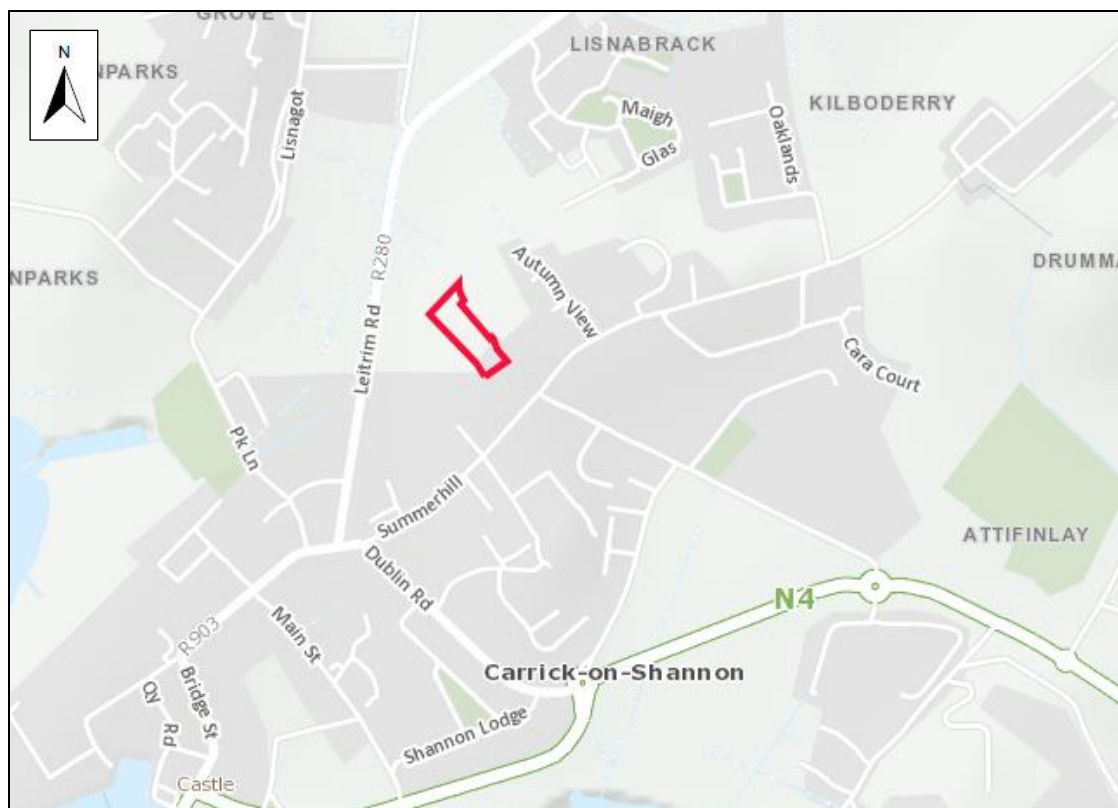


FIGURE 1: Site location

1.2 THE DEVELOPMENT

The proposed development consists of 12 no. residential units at the site at Townparks, Carrick on Shannon, County Leitrim (Figure 2).

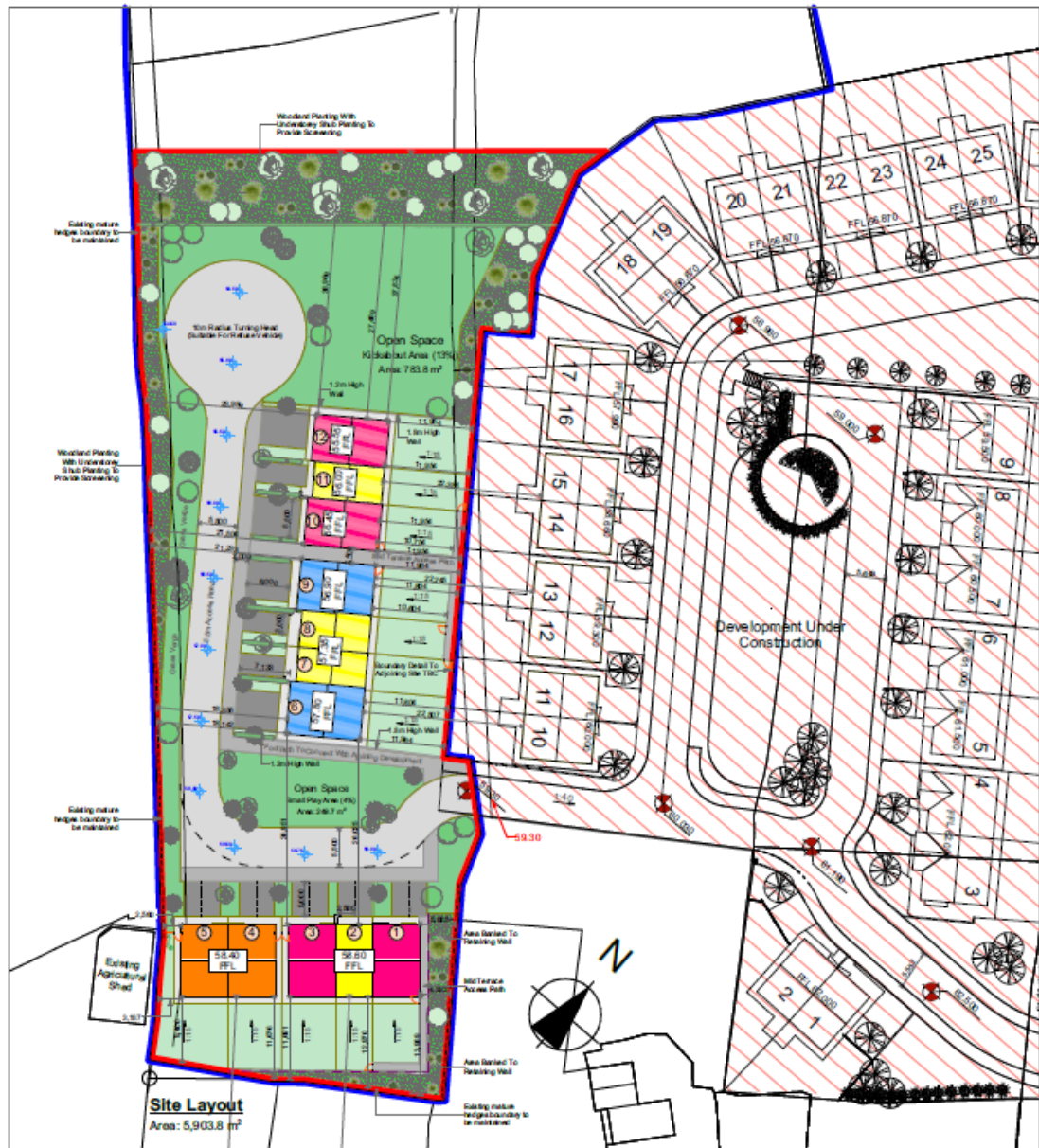


FIGURE 2: Plan of the proposed development

2 RESULTS OF SCREENING ASSESSMENT

The proposed development area is located in the townland of Townparks, Carrick on Shannon, County Leitrim. There are three recorded monuments with 500m of the site. The closest consists of the zone of archaeological potential for the historic town of Carrick on Shannon (LE031-005), which is located c. 135m to the southwest. A ringfort (LE031-006) is located c. 317m southeast and a church (LE031-005002), c. 433m southwest (Figure 3).

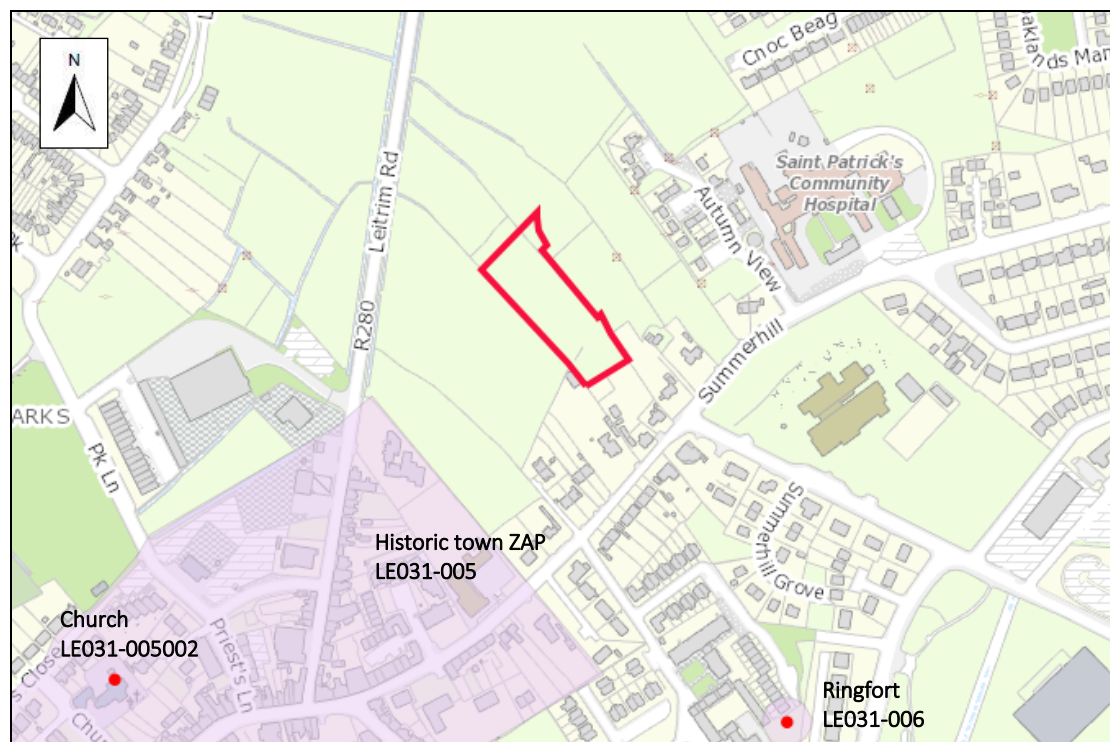


FIGURE 3: Extract from archaeology.ie showing recorded monuments and proposed development area

A review of Excavations Bulletin (1970–2019) revealed that the site to the immediate east of the proposed development area was previously tested and monitored under licence 18E0764. Nothing of archaeological significance was identified (Bennett 2019:149, 2019:271). Archaeological testing was carried out c. 291m southeast of the proposed development area under licence 00E0143. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified. A programme of archaeological testing took place c. 433m southwest of the proposed development area, immediately adjacent to the cemetery of St. George's Church of Ireland church (Licence Ref.: 01E0409), but nothing of archaeological significance was identified. Similarly, archaeological testing at Priests Lane failed to identify any features of archaeological potential (Licence Ref.: 97E0253, Bennett 1997:317).

Examination of historic mapping of the proposed development area has revealed the site has remained as undisturbed greenfield throughout the post medieval period. The first edition OS map of 1835–6 shows the proposed development area as

unenclosed greenfield. The boundary in the south of the site is shown with the southeastern portion of the site forming part of a separate plot. By the time of the 25-inch OS map of 1907–9, the site has been enclosed by field boundaries (Figure 4). The northeast–southwest field boundary depicted in the earlier first edition mapping is present.



FIGURE 4: Extract from 25-inch OS map of 1907–9 showing proposed development area

Aerial photography held by the Ordnance Survey of Ireland (1995-2013), Google Earth (2010–2017) and Bing Maps revealed the site has remained as greenfield. The field boundary traversing the site as shown in the historic mapping is no longer fully extant, though it partially survives in its northeastern and southwest extents.

Although the site remains as greenfield, it measures 0.6ha in size and as such is relatively small in scale. When this is considered in conjunction with a lack of archaeological evidence from the vicinity of the site, the area is considered to possess negligible archaeological potential.

3 RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER STUDIES

Given the low archaeological potential of the proposed development area, no further archaeological assessments or mitigation is deemed to be necessary in association with future development.

4 REFERENCES

Bennett, I. (ed.) 1987–2010 *Excavations: Summary Accounts of Archaeological Excavations in Ireland*. Bray. Wordwell.

National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. *Sites and Monuments Record*, County Leitrim.

Cartographic Sources

Ordnance Survey maps of County Leitrim 1835–6, 1907–9

Electronic Sources

www.excavations.ie – Summary of archaeological excavation from 1970–2019.

www.archaeology.ie – DoCHG website listing all SMR sites with aerial photographs.

www.osiemaps.ie – Ordnance Survey aerial photographs dating to 1995, 2000 & 2005 and 6-inch/25-inch OS maps.

www.googleearth.com – Aerial photographs of the proposed development area.

www.bingmaps.com – Aerial photographs of the proposed development area.

www.heritagemaps.ie – The Heritage Council web-based spatial data viewer which focuses on the built, cultural and natural heritage.