

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCREENING
ASSESSMENT
AT
MANORHAMILTON,
COUTNY LEITRIM**

**ON BEHALF OF:
LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL**

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NOVEMBER 2020

IAC PROJECT REF.: J3593

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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 within the townland of Manorhamilton, within County Leitrim (Figure 1, ITM 589195/839688). 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.

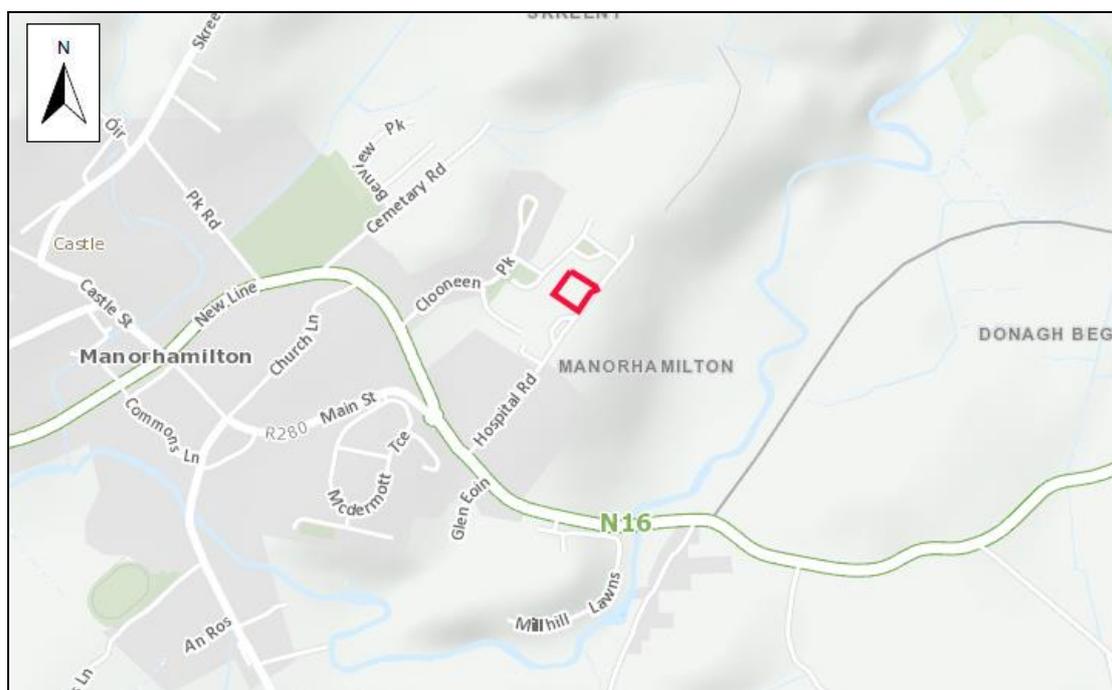


FIGURE 1: Site location

1.2 THE DEVELOPMENT

It is proposed to develop 5 no. residential units on the site in Manorhamilton (Figure 2).



FIGURE 2: Plan of the proposed development area

2 RESULTS OF SCREENING ASSESSMENT

The proposed development area is located in the townland of Manorhamilton, County Leitrim. The site is located on the western slope of a small hill and is surrounded to the north, west and south by existing modern development. There are no recorded monuments within the proposed development area. The nearest recorded monument is a ringfort (LE007-078) located c. 301m northeast of the site. Two other recorded monuments are located within 500m of the proposed development area and include a bastioned fort (LE011-015), c. 325m west and an enclosure (LE007-074), c. 424m north (Figure 3).

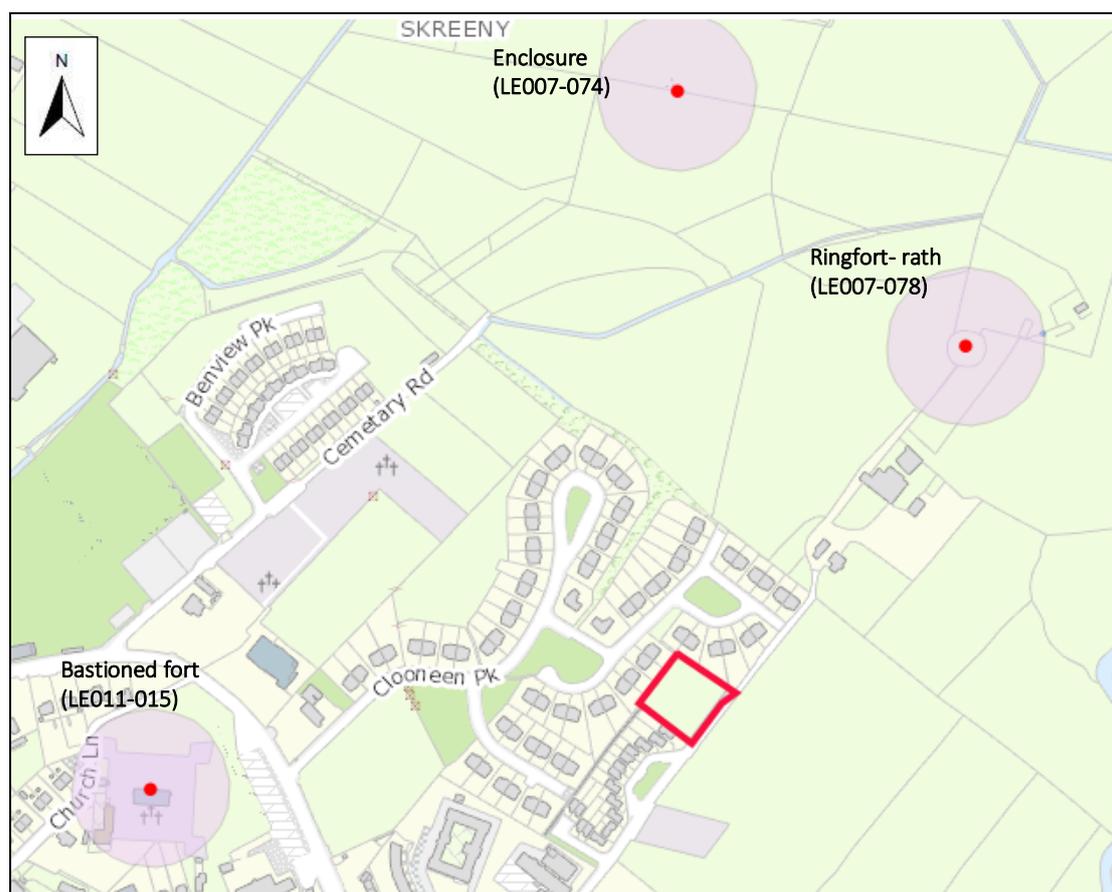


FIGURE 3: Extract from archaeology.ie showing proposed development area and nearby recorded monuments

A review of Excavations Bulletin (1970–2019) revealed that no previous archaeological investigations have taken place in the proposed development area to date. A programme of testing and subsequent excavation was carried out c. 143m south of the proposed development area under licence 01E0720. Human remains representing at least 70 individuals were recorded and excavated in two areas immediately south of St. Josephs Fever Hospital (Bennett 2001:737). These burials are likely to date from 1844 and relate to the ‘disused’ burial grounds shown to the east and west of the hospital in the 25-inch OS map of 1907–9. Archaeological monitoring of the excavation of trenches for ESB cables, immediately northwest of the bastioned

fort (LE011-015), failed to identify any features of archaeological significance (Licence Ref.: 02E1412, Bennett 2002:1059).

The cartographic sources depict the proposed development area as undeveloped greenfield. The first edition OS map of 1835–6, shows the site as agricultural land on the outskirts of Manorhamilton village. By the time of the 25-inch map of 1907–9, Hospital Road to the immediate southeast of the site has been established (Figure 4).



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

Examination of aerial photography and satellite imagery of the proposed development area shows the site was previously in use as agricultural land. However, the Google Earth imagery of 2017 shows the site was disturbed during the construction of the adjacent development to the southwest.

Based on the small size of the site, the slope of the hill and the previous disturbance that has taken place, the site is considered to be of 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.