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# Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report

Mayo County Council

April 2025

# N58 STRADE RIVER BRIDGE REHABILITATION WORKS



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo  
Mayo County Council

**Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of Proposed N58 Strade  
River Bridge Works at Knockshanbally/ Strade Co Mayo**

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April 2025

# 1. Summary

Mayo County Council proposes to upgrade the modern bridge which crosses the Strade River between Knockshanbally and Strade townlands on the N58 Bellavarry – Foxford road, Co Mayo. This assessment addresses potential Cultural Heritage impacts of these proposed works.

The assessment focuses on desk-based sources, including early maps, aerial photographs and public records of buildings and monuments or architectural heritage or archaeological interest (i.e. National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, Record of Protected Structures and Record of Monuments and Places). The proposed works will involve minimal groundworks and are confined to the modern bridge and road area.

The proposed works will involve the demolition of the existing 1980's bridge deck and the construction of a new deck and parapets at the same location, reducing the height of the existing abutments and demolishing the central bridge pier and replacing the existing raised concrete apron below the bridge with a new reduced height apron (proposed extent of demolition highlighted below in fig. 1). The works will encroach on the 'zone of notification' of one National Monument / Recorded Monument. It is on the outer edge of the Zone of Notification for MA070-067001- (Religious House - Dominican Friars); MA070-067004- (Graveslab); MA070-067005 (Religious House - Fransiscan Friars); MA070-067006- (Graveyard) and other associated monuments: See SMR Zone of Notification circle in the image below with the bridge location circled in blue. Straide Abbey is also a National Monument in state ownership (no. 172) and as such is of National importance with a higher level of protection.

There are three Recorded Protected Structures (RPS) in the vicinity (Table 1.1). Strade Bridge (RPS No. 0130) is the closest, c. 35 m from the development. There is no predicted impact on these Structures , however measures should be put in place to prevent inadvertent impacts from the project.

Archaeological monitoring/testing of any groundworks associated with the proposed development is recommended, with provision to record, excavate and sample / retain any archaeological deposits, features or objects that might be discovered. A Wade and metal detection survey of the riverbed and banks adjacent to the modern bridge prior to construction is also recommended.

This will require ministerial consent via the National Monuments Service.



**Table 1.1 Key data relating to site location and cultural heritage protections  
(Within 250m of the development)**

KEY DATA			
Route	N58		
County	Mayo		
Barony	Gallen		
Grid Refs (ITM)	525755/797497		
Townlands	Strade/An tSráid (Street)	Knockshanbally (the hill of the old town)	Knockagarraun / Cnoc an Ghearráin (Hill of the grove ?)
Civil parishes	Templemore /An Teampall Mór		
Electoral districts	Strade /An tSráid		
National Monument /RMP (Archaeology)	Strade Friary and associated features (MA070-067). National Monument in state ownership (no. 172).		
RPS (Architecture)	No. 0006 - O'Donnell Mausoleum Straide No. 0129 - Straide RCC (NIAH Reg No. 31307027) No. 0130 – Bridge, Straide (NIAH, Reg No 31307030)		
NIAH (Architecture)	Church/Chapel/Museum Gallery, Reg No 31307029		



*Figure 1: Google Street view of the Michael Davitt Museum and Strade Abbey from the bridge.*

## 2. Proposed Works

The current road alignment incorporating a modern concrete bridge was constructed in 1983. The pre-existing hump-backed bridge was left in situ and is still extant on the original road alignment. It is a recorded protected structure and will not be affected by this development.

The existing 1980's bridge deck is proposed to be demolished, reducing the height of the existing abutments and demolishing the central bridge pier and replacing the existing raised concrete apron below the bridge with a new reduced height apron (proposed extent of demolition highlighted in figure 1 below). A new deck and parapets will be constructed at the same location. The new bridge deck is required to be raised above the design flood level of the watercourse, with the existing national road required to be raised on both approaches to the bridge as part of the works also.



*Figure 2: Bridge elevation with section to be removed highlighted in yellow.*



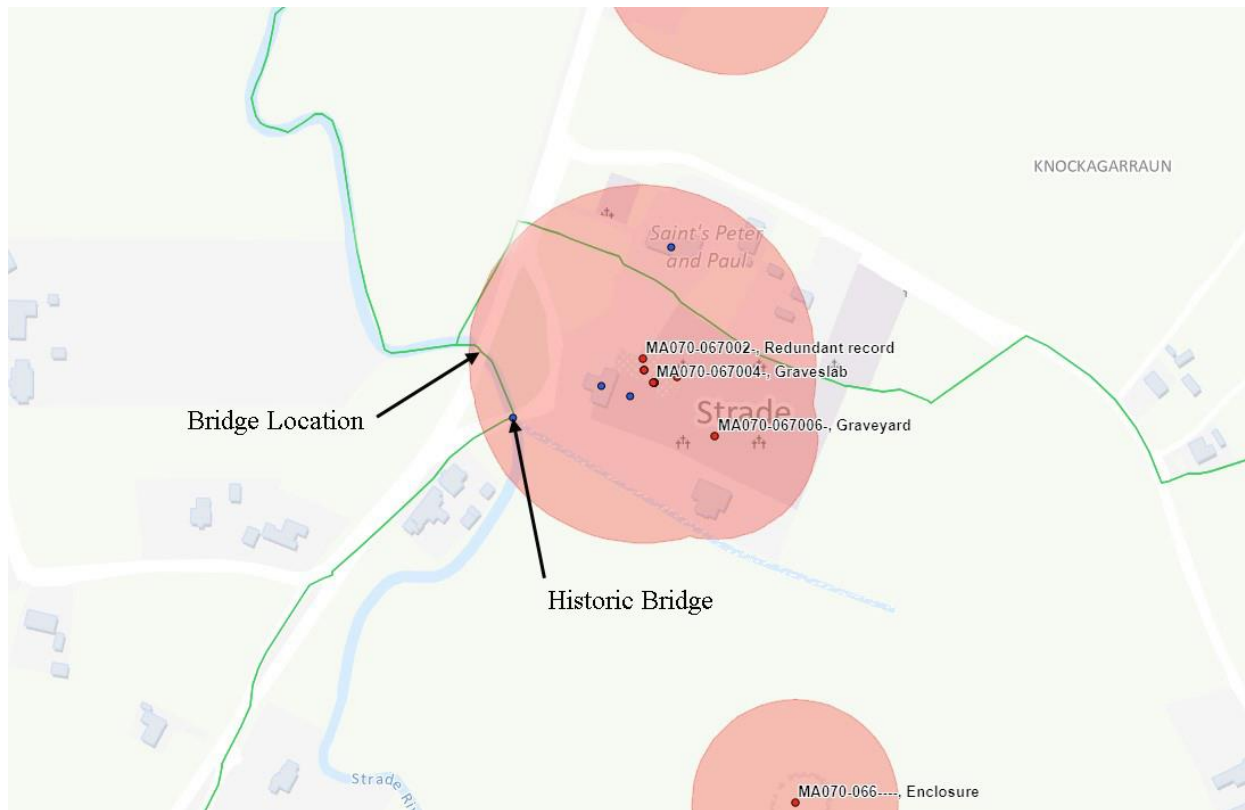


Figure 3: Works Location in relation to the Recorded Monuments and Architectural sites. Extract from the National Monuments (NMS) Heritage Environment Viewer (HEV).



Figure 4: Bald's Map of Mayo 1814 showing Strade (Straide) Abbey and some associated buildings. There is a bridge at the location of the old Strade Bridge, possibly the same historic hump backed bridge as highlighted in this study.

### 3. Sources

This assessment is based on the desktop sources listed below. The assessment was confined to a study area extending roughly 250 m from the project site on all sides. The project site was inspected by the writer on March 12, 2025.

- Mayo County Council heritage website (<https://www.mayo.ie/en-ie/library/local-history/mayo-archaeology>)
- National Monuments in State Care: Ownership & Guardianship 4th March 2009 Mayo  
<https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/pdf/monuments-in-state-care-mayo.pdf>
- Ordnance Survey six-inch maps, Mayo Sheet 70 (first edition 1839, second edition 1914)
- McDermott, Y. 2009 Strade Friary: Patronage and development at a medieval mendicant friary. *Cathair na Mart* 27, 92-108.
- Aerial photography (OSI undated, Council Intranet; Bing Aerial undated, [www.bing.com](http://www.bing.com)).
- Record of Monuments and Places map, being a record of the archaeological sites and monuments protected under the *National Monuments Acts*
- Record of Protected Structures, Vol 4, County Mayo (Mayo County Development Plan 2022–2028); being a record of architectural heritage protected under Part IV of the *Planning and Development Act 2000*. (<https://www.mayo.ie/en-ie/your-council/services/architecture/architectural-conservation/records-of-protected-structures> )
- National Built Heritage Service - National Inventory of Architectural Heritage  
(<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie>)
- Sites and Monuments Record of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland  
(<https://www.archaeology.ie>)

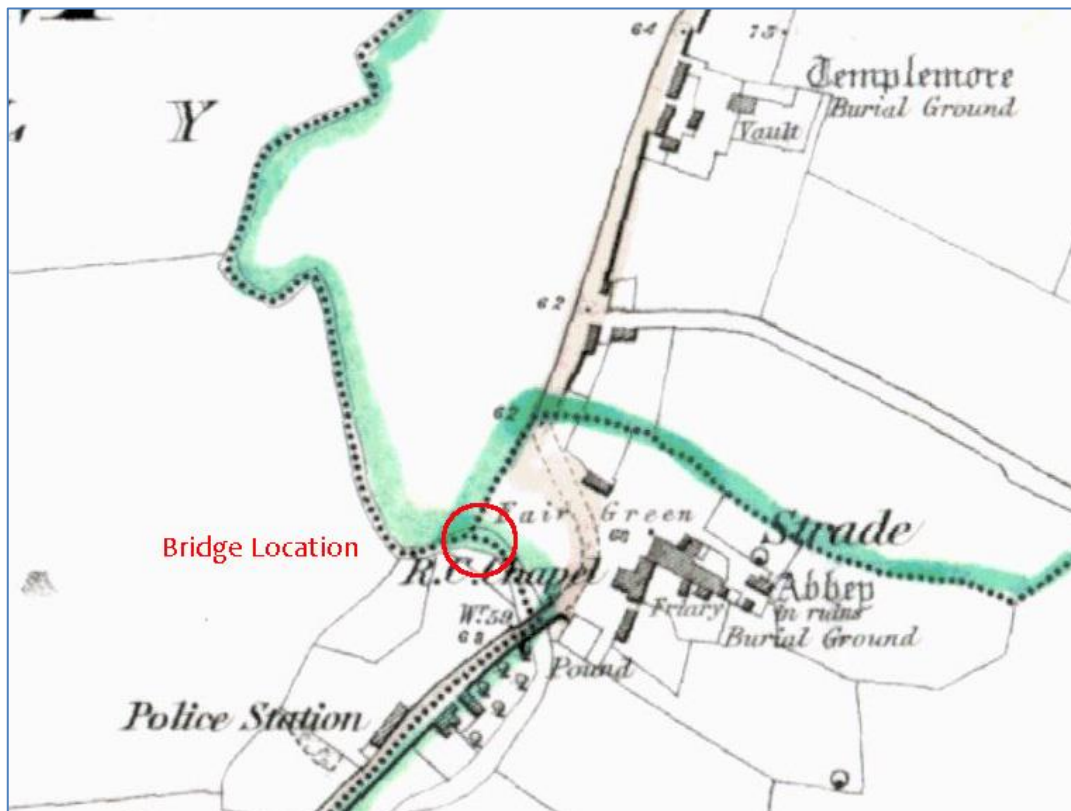


Figure 5: First Edition OS six-inch to one mile map.

## 4. Landscape and Settlement

The topography is generally low-lying and gently undulating farmland. Land use in the area is almost entirely livestock farming on improved grass pasture. The current settlement pattern in the study area and environs consists of dispersed rural houses and farmsteads fronting the public roads. The bridge is located within the village of Straide (Irish: An tSráid), or Strade, in County Mayo. It is located on the N58 national secondary road between Foxford and Castlebar. The name Strade is an anglicisation of the Irish words an tsráid, meaning the street.

The village is centred on Straide Abbey, which currently houses 'The Michael Davitt Museum'. It is dedicated to Michael Davitt who was born in Strade. It presents the story of how he and Charles Stewart Parnell formed the Land League at the end of the nineteenth century to abolish landlordism in Ireland and enable tenant farmers to own the land on which they worked. This museum is an additional Cultural Heritage Site.



## 5. Archaeology and Architecture

The Strade area has a rich archaeological heritage with the Neolithic and Bronze Age represented by a Megalithic Tomb and at least one fulacht fiadh. The medieval period dominates, with numerous enclosures and ringforts throughout, reflecting relatively intense occupation of the landscape at the time. Strade Friary (National Monument No. 172), dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> century is central to this. According to McDermott (2009, 93) Strade Friary was founded by the Franciscans in the early thirteenth century and passed to the Dominicans in 1252. The only surviving structure from the friary is the church which incorporates thirteenth and fifteenth century phases of gothic architecture. (ibid. 93-96). The abbey church would have been part of a larger complex of buildings and possibly earthworks which are no longer extant.

Secular habitation is reflected in the townland name Knockshanbally (the hill of the old town) and may refer to a nearby medieval or historic village with no visible remains. The closest Cultural Heritage site is the old Strade Bridge (RPS No. 0130) which is 35 m upstream from the development and will not be impacted.

The bridge being upgraded as part of this scheme was newly constructed in 1983. There are no historical associations with fording or older structures at this location. The proposed works will involve minimal groundworks and are confined to the modern bridge and road area. A works compound will be required for the works, with the location to be outside the Zone of Notification of the surrounding monuments.

Bald's Map of Mayo 1814 shows Strade (Straid) Abbey and some associated buildings. There is a bridge at the location of the old Strade Bridge, possibly the same historic hump backed bridge as highlighted in this study. Additional nondescript buildings are located along the road either side of the bridge. The first edition six-inch scale map includes a police station, pound and fairgreen which would have been component parts of this nineteenth century village. These are located adjacent to but outside the development area.



*Figure 6: Works Location in relation to the Recorded Monuments and Architectural sites.*



*Figure 9: Strade Historic Bridge (RPS 130).*



*Figure 7: View of the Modern Bridge from the historic bridge.*



*Figure 8: Modern bridge at road level.*



## 6. Impact assessment

The bridge is located at the edge of the recorded monuments zone of Notification for Strade Friary (MA070-067/ National Monument No. 172) within this historic area. One Recorded Protected structure within 35 m of the development, Strade Bridge (RPS No. 0130). Due to the development location and restricted scope, there is no predicted Cultural Heritage impact on any known cultural heritage receptors. There may be previously unrecorded subsurface archaeological remains within the bridge area and works compound site. A suitable compound location for the project has not been selected yet but only sites outside any NMS zone of notification will be considered. Known sites in the general area should be protected from inadvertent damage at construction stage.

## 7. Recommendations

The proposed project site is in close proximity to, and within the zone of notification for an early medieval friary (**National Monument No. 172**, RMP No. MA070-067). As it is a National Monument Ministerial consent is required for these works. There is no predicted direct impact on the Abbey, however there is potential for further subsurface archaeological remains. Archaeological monitoring of the ground works including ground investigations, is recommended. Archaeological monitoring/testing of external works areas such as storage areas and compounds is also recommended. The archaeologist should be facilitated in examining, recording, excavating, sampling and analysing any archaeological deposits, features or objects that might be discovered, and will be required to report on same. This will require Ministerial consent via the National Monuments Service and should be included in the method statement as part of the Ministerial Consent application.

A wade and metal detection survey of the riverbed and banks, immediately adjacent to the modern bridge is also recommended.

There are three Recorded Protected Structures (RPS) in the vicinity (Table 1.1). Strade Bridge (RPS No. 0130) is the closest, c. 35 m from the development. There is no predicted impact on these Structures, however measures should be put in place to prevent inadvertent impacts from the project.

## Appendix 1: Archaeological Monuments included in the NMS Record of Monuments and Places.



### **MA070-067001- : Religious house - Dominican friars : STRADE**

**Description:** Strade Dominican friary is a National Monument in state ownership (no. 172). It is located in the parish of Templemore, in the N end of Strade townland, Co. Mayo. A friary for the Franciscan Order was established in Strade in the early to mid-1200's - by Jordan de Exeter, Lord of Athlethan. He also built a castle (MA061-145 ) and established the borough of Athlethan (now Ballylahan townland), c. 2.5km NW of the friary (Knox 1903, 406). The Franciscans did not, however, remain long at Strade. In 1253, the friary was transferred to Dominican friars, either by Jordan or by his son, Stephen fitz Jordan de Exeter. This is said to have been done at the request of Stephen's wife, Basilia, daughter of Myler de Bermingham, who was patron of the Dominicans at Athenry. Basilia is said to have invited her father to Strade for a feast at which she declared she would neither eat nor drink until her husband agreed to expel the Franciscans from Strade in favour of the Dominicans (Coleman 1912, 204-5). Papal permission was subsequently sought and received for the transfer, aided by the incentive of a sizable donation. The Dominican priory was dedicated to the Holy Cross and, according to the 16th-century Register of the Priory of Athenry, was a daughter house of Sligo Dominican priory (SL014-068008-) (Swords 1998, 21). Soon after they took possession, the Dominican suffered a misfortune: The Annals of Loch Cé record that in the year 1254 'The monastery of the Friars Preachers at Ath-lethan in Luighne, was all burned.' (Hennessy 1871, 405). A papal indulgence granted in 1434 to encouraging donations from benefactors may have prompted a phase of expansion and remodeling which took place in the 15th-century (Gwynne and Hadcock 1970, 230). Following the Dissolution of monasteries, the friary and two quarters of land were granted in 1575 by Queen Elizabeth I to James Garvey for 21 years, and the property changed hands a number of times in subsequent years (Swords 1998, 21). In 1580, a

meeting took place in the friary during which Sir Nicholas Malby, President of Connacht, accepted Sir Richard 'an Iarainn' de Burgh as lord of the MacWilliam Íochtair, in return for his loyalty. The friars managed to stay on at Strade; in 1756 there were seven friars living there, in 1767 four, and the last friar recorded in Strade died c. 1856-60 (Coleman 1902, 95). Only the church survives, comprising a nave and chancel, with remnants of a central bell tower, and a lateral aisle and a chapel/transept on the N side of the nave; domestic buildings originally extended to the S of the church, but only fragmentary walls remain. A graveyard (MA070-067004-) extends to S and E of the friary, with a modern extension to N. A 19th-century chapel, attached to the SW end of the friary church, now serves as a museum dedicated to the 19th-century Land League campaigner, Michael Davitt (d. 1906), who was born in Strade and is buried there. The friary buildings are of roughly coursed limestone masonry, with some architectural details in red sandstone. Two main phases of construction are evident: The church and the N aisle date from the 13th-century; the 15th-century saw expansion and remodeling, evidenced by the addition of the chapel/transept and the tower, and the replacement of the E window in the chancel. In recent centuries the interior of the church was used for burials, and interior ground level has risen; the original floor level was as much as 1m lower than its present-day level. Several graves of 18th- and 19th-century in date are evident throughout the church. The nave (c. 17m E-W; 6.70m N-S) is lit by a large window, partly collapsed, in the W gable and a row of four single and double lancet windows in the S wall. The eastern-most window in the S wall was partly blocked when the tower was built, but the central mullion and jamb of its E light are visible externally. The pointed, chamfered arch of a tomb niche is visible in the S wall, with remnants of a similar arch immediately to E; both are partly concealed by the rise in ground level. Also partly buried is a doorway at the E end of the S wall; this gave access to the cloister, and was integrated within the space of the tower. On the external face of the W gable, flanking the base of the window, are corbels with a string course above, suggesting that a lean-to roof was appended to the wall here, possibly associated with the preaching activities of the friars. Unusually, there is no evidence for a doorway in the W gable, where most friary churches had an entrance for the laity. At Strade the entrance appears to have been in the lateral aisle, its location marked now by a gap in the N wall. The lateral aisle (14.90m E-W; 3.88m N-S) was most likely originally separated from the nave by an arcade of arches; at the W end of the N wall of the nave, the impost of one arch survives, featuring roll mouldings consistent with a 13th-century date. Putlog holes in the W wall of the nave and aisle, where scaffolding used during construction was fitted, and building lifts (marking the amount a wall could be raised in one day) also suggest the nave and aisle belong to the same construction phase. The chapel or transept (9.15m N-S by 6m E-W) extends to N of the nave, immediately to E of the lateral aisle. It was probably added in the 15th-century, or possibly the 14th-century. It appears to pre-dates the tower, based on the similarities of the masonry fabric to that of the nave and chancel. A beautiful, elaborately carved double-light window, 15th-century in style, is intact in the E wall. It has cinquefoil round-headed lights under a pointed arch, with decorated tracery comprised of two sextfoils and two quatrefoils, cusped and arranged symmetrically. There are remnants of two altar recesses with pointed arches in the N wall. A modern burial vault now stands against the W wall of the transept. The tower, which was inserted between the nave and chancel in the 15th-century, does not survive, but its original extent (ext. 6.75m N-S; 4.45m E-W) can be traced in the disturbed fabric of the S wall of the church. Only the pointed chancel arch still stands. Built of regularly coursed, dressed limestone blocks, it has an internal chamfered rib which rests on moulded corbels with pointed stops, embellished below with intricate carvings of birds: a pelican, pecking its breast, at N and an eagle at S. In Christian tradition, the pelican, which was believed to feed its young



with its own blood, is a metaphor of the Passion of Christ, the Eucharist and self-sacrifice, and is a common motif in Irish Gothic art. The eagle is used in Christian iconography to symbolise the Resurrection and baptism, based on an ancient belief that the eagle flew close to the sun to burn off old plumage and then plunged into water to renew itself; and the eagle's ability to soar to great heights was seen as analogous to Christian efforts to aspire to greater heights of perfection and spiritual union with God. The eagle may also represent St John, one of the Four Evangelists (McDermott 2009, 98-9). The chancel (6.75 N-S; 14.95 E-W. Fig. 6) has a four-light window in the E gable, but all internal mullions and tracery are gone. It was inserted in the 15th-century, replacing the original 13th-century window, which was broader and perhaps consisted of a group of graded lancets. On the exterior wall face, two buttresses flank the window, a rather typical feature of 13th-century friary churches (similar examples occur at the Dominican friaries of Athenry (GA084-001014-) and Kilmallock (LI047-022018-)). Under the E window along the internal wall face, there are a series of six or seven corbels, which might have held statues. Beneath the window is one of the special features of the abbey, an elaborately carved 15th-century altar piece or reredos, a rare survival, designed to be displayed behind the altar.

#### **References:**

- Coleman, A. 1902 The ancient Dominican foundations in Ireland. Dundalk. William Tempest.
- Hennessy, W.M. (ed. and trans.) 1871 (Reprint 1939) The Annals of Loch Cé. A chronicle of Irish affairs from A.D. 1014 to A.D. 1590. 2 vols. Oxford/Cambridge/Edinburgh/Dublin.
- Knox, H. T. 1902-03 Occupation of Connaught by the Anglo-Normans after AD 1237. Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, vol. 32, 132-38; 393-406; vol. 33, 58-74; 179-89; 284-95.
- Coleman, A. 1912 Regestum Monasterii Fratrum Praedicatorum de Athenry. Archivium Hibernicum 1, 201-221.
- Swords L. (ed.) 1998 A Sixteenth-Century Register of Achonry. Collectanea Hibernica, 39/40, 7-22.
- McDermott, Y. 2009 Strade Friary: Patronage and development at a medieval mendicant friary. Cathair na Mart 27, 92-108.
- Gwynn, A. and Hadcock, R.N. 1970 (Reprint 1988) Medieval religious houses of Ireland. Dublin. Irish Academic Press.

**Six-Inch First edition:** 'Abbey in Ruins'

**Six-Inch Latest edition:** 'Friary (in Ruins)'

**ITM Coordinates:** 525850 , 797490

#### **MA070-067002- : Redundant record : STRADE**

**Description:** Listed in the SMR (1991) and the RMP (1996) as 'Altar'. This record refers to a reredos or altar piece in the church of Strade Friary (MA070-067001-). Altars which are in situ within a church are considered by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland to be an integral component of church furniture and are described within the record for the church.

**ITM Coordinates:** 525849 , 797497

## **MA070-067003- : Wall monument : STRADE**

**Description:** Located in the N wall of the chancel in the church of the Dominican priory (MA070-067001-) of Strade. This 15th-century canopy tomb/wall monument is one of the finest surviving examples of its type in Ireland. It features a pointed arch filled with gloriously flamboyant, flowing cusped tracery. The hood-moulding of the arch is decorated with eleven crockets on each side and at the apex, which is crowned by a cross-shaped finial, and it is framed by two chamfered pinnacles terminating into crocketed finials. At the base of the arch on the W side is a carving of a dog, a symbol of loyalty and faithfulness. The front of the mensa or tomb is comprised of two panels, each decorated with four figures carved within their own small ogee-headed canopy with pinnacles. In the left-hand panel, each ogee-headed canopy is separated by a slim pilaster. A broader pilaster separates this panel from the right-hand panel, where each canopy is supported by an angel. The eight figures are finely carved, with great attention to details such as hair and facial features, the folds of the clothing and the symbolic attributes each displays or carries. The four crowned figures on the W panel (from L) represent the three Magi, carrying their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh in ciborium-like containers, and Christ displaying the Five Wounds. The four figures on the right-hand panel (from L) include a kneeling man, a bishop wearing a mitre, one hand raised in blessing and the other carrying a cross-shaped crozier, St Peter carrying a book and the keys of Heaven, and Saint Paul carrying a book and a sword. A closer look at the kneeling man shows that he is bearded, with a luxuriant moustache, and dressed in a friar's habit, his raised arms, showing buttoned sleeves, are drawing back the cowl or hood –perhaps in anticipation of a blessing from the adjacent bishop towards whom he is facing (Leask 1960, 168). There is a weaver's shuttle dangling from his belt, which may symbolise the passage of time or allude to his association with weaving or the wool trade (McDermott 2009, 100-05). This figure is probably a depiction of the deceased donor of the tomb, who was probably a benefactor of the abbey during his lifetime. It was not uncommon in the medieval period for patrons of abbeys to take the habit in their later years to atone for their sins and prepare for death. A memorial to Anne Deane, cousin of John Dillon, MP and leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party, was inserted into the back of the tomb recess in the 19th-century. Attached image MA07-067003-\_01 Compiled by: Anne-Julie Lafaye and Jane O'Shaughnessy Date of upload: 23 June 2020

**References:** Leask, H.G. 1960 (Reprint 1971, 1978 and 1985) *Irish churches and monastic buildings*, vol. III. Medieval gothic the last phases. Dundalk. Dundalgan Press. McDermott, Y. 2009 *Strade Friary: Patronage and development at a medieval mendicant friary*. Cathair na Mart 27, 92-108.

**Six-Inch First edition:** Not indicated

**Six-Inch Latest edition:** Not indicated

**ITM Coordinates:** 525869 , 797486

### **MA070-067004- : Graveslab : STRADE**

**Description:** Located in Strade Dominican friary (MA070-067001-), one of a group of five (see also MA070-067007- to MA070-067010-) displayed against the S wall of the chancel. This graveslab (L 1.9m), which is tapered or wedge-shaped with chamfered sides, was the lid of a coffin-tomb. It is nearly fully intact, missing only its lower right-hand corner, and possibly part of its lower extremity, where the edge appears raw and is not chamfered. It bears a large bottonée or foliated cross in low relief, with the top and arms of the cross terminating in trefoils. Two additional arms placed at a diagonal, angled upwards, are placed roughly centrally on the shaft of the cross, also terminating in trefoils; these are unusual features, and it has been suggested that they may have been designed to represent the Christ's arms on the cross (McDermott 2009, 99). The foliated cross is a design typical of Anglo-Norman tombs; it has been found in Bannow, Co. Wexford (WX044-045007-) and Kilkenny Dominican friary (KK019-026021-) and suggests a thirteenth-century date for the grave-slab (McDermott 2009, 100). At least two of the other grave-slabs (MA070-067009-; MA070-067010-) at Strade bear a similar design. Attached image: MA070-067004-\_01.JPG

Compiled by: Anne-Julie Lafaye Date of upload: 29 September 2020

**References:** McDermott, Y. 2009 Strade Friary: Patronage and development at a medieval mendicant friary. *Cathair na Mart* 27, 92-108.

**ITM Coordinates:** 525855 , 797483

### **MA070-067005- : Religious house - Franciscan friars : STRADE**

**Description:** This record was listed in the SMR (1991) and RMP (1996) as 'Friary'. It relates to an OS mapping error which identifies an 'Abbey (Site of)'. This refers to the establishment of a Franciscan friary in the 13th century which was subsequently transferred to the Dominican friars (MA070-067001-) in 1252-3. In essence, this is a duplicate record. Compiled by: Paul Walsh Date of upload: 17 November 2014

**Six-Inch First edition:**

**Six-Inch Latest edition:** 'Abbey (Site of)'

**ITM Coordinates:** 525850 , 797490

### **MA070-067006- : Graveyard : STRADE**

**Six-Inch First edition:** 'Burial Ground'

**Six-Inch Latest edition:** 'Grave Yard'

**ITM Coordinates:** 525891 , 797452



## **HISTORIC BRIDGE, KNOCKSHANBALLY, STRADE, CO MAYO**

NIAH Survey Data Reg No 31307030

Rating – Regional

Categories of Special Interest - Architectural, Scientific, Technical

Original Use – Bridge

In Use As - Bridge

Date - 1700 - 1838

Coordinates - 125807, 297450

Date Recorded - 10/11/2010



### **Description**

Three-arch hump-back road bridge over river, extant 1838. Bypassed, 1983. Part creeper- or ivy-covered walls centred on triangular cutwaters to piers to upriver (south) elevation having overgrown pyramidal capping with lichen-covered rounded coping to parapets. Series of three round arches with lichen-covered cut-limestone voussoirs centred on lichen-covered cut-limestone keystones. Sited spanning Strade River with unkempt grass banks to river.

### **Appraisal**

A bridge representing an integral component of the civil engineering heritage of County Mayo with the architectural value of the composition suggested not only by the sheer limestone dressings demonstrating good quality workmanship, but also by the elegant "sweep" of the arches making a pleasing visual statement at a crossing over the Strade River: meanwhile, a discreet benchmark remains of additional interest for the connections with cartography and the preparation of maps by the Ordnance Survey (established 1824).

## CHURCH/CHAPEL – MUSEUM, STRADE, STRADE, CO MAYO

NIAH REG NO - 31307029

Rating -Regional

Categories of Special Interest - Architectural, Historical, Social

Original Use - Church/chapel

Historical Use - Church hall/parish hall

In Use As - Museum/gallery

Date 1800 - 1838

Coordinates -125858, 297467

Date Recorded - 10/11/2010



### Description

Detached three-bay double-height Catholic chapel, extant 1838, on a T-shaped plan comprising two-bay double-height nave opening into single-bay (single-bay deep) double-height transepts centred on chancel to crossing (east). Closed, 1916. Adapted to alternative use, 1940. Vacated, 1981. Restored, 1999, to accommodate alternative use. Pitched slate roof on a T-shaped plan with clay ridge tiles, lichen-covered cut-limestone coping to gables, and cast-iron rainwater goods on rendered cut-limestone eaves retaining cast-iron downpipes. Replacement cement rendered battered walls. Pointed-arch window openings with sills, timber Y-mullions, and concealed dressings framing timber pivot fittings having square glazing bars. Pointed-arch window opening to entrance (west) front with concealed dressings framing timber pivot fittings having square glazing bars. Interior remodelled, 1999. Set in shared grounds.

### Appraisal

A chapel representing an important component of the built heritage of County Mayo with the architectural value of the composition, one showing the hallmarks of a period of construction coinciding with the gradual dismantling of the Penal Laws in anticipation of the Roman Catholic Relief Act, 1829, confirmed by such attributes as the traditional "T"-shaped plan form, aligned along a liturgically-correct axis; the feint battered silhouette; and the "pointed" profile of the openings underpinning a contemporary Georgian Gothic theme. NOTE: An adjacent graveyard includes the burial plots of Anne Bald (d. 1826) '[the] Wife of William Bald [cf. 31302702; 31311502]'; Michael Davitt (1846-1906), founder of the Irish National Land League (founded 1879); and a standardised Commonwealth War Grave Commission headstone over the burial plot of Private Owen Foy (d. 1918) of the Ninth Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

## MAUSOLEUM STRADE, STRADE, CO MAYO



Reg No -31307028

Rating - Regional

Categories of Special Interest - Architectural, Artistic, Historical, Social

Original Use - Mausoleum

In Use As - Mausoleum

Date - 1810 - 1815

Coordinates - 125875, 297462

Date Recorded - 10/11/2010

### Description

Attached single-bay single-stage mausoleum, dated 1813, on a rectangular plan. In ruins, 1944. Roof now missing. Rendered, ruled and lined walls centred on inscribed cut-limestone panel ("1813") with lichen-covered cut-limestone "pointed" battlemented parapet. Set in shared grounds with wrought iron railings to perimeter.

### Appraisal

A mausoleum erected (1813) 'by Peter Quin by ordr [sic] of Robert G Rookwood Esq' representing an integral component of the early nineteenth-century heritage of Strade.



## **Catholic Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, KNOCKAGARRAUN, Strade, MAYO**

Reg No - 31307027

Rating - Regional

Categories of Special Interest - Architectural, Artistic, Historical, Social, Technical

Original Use - Church/chapel

In Use As - Church/chapel

Date - 1910 - 1920

Coordinates - 125899, 297549

Date Recorded - 10/11/2010

### **Description**

Detached seven-bay double-height Catholic church, designed 1913; built 1914-6; dedicated 1916, on a rectangular plan comprising six-bay double-height nave opening into single-bay double-height chancel (east). Restored, 2010. Pitched slate roofs with trefoil-perforated crested terracotta ridge tiles, lichen-covered dragged cut-limestone coping to gables on dragged cut-limestone ogee kneelers including lichen-covered dragged cut-limestone coping to gable to entrance (west) front on dragged cut-limestone ogee kneelers with drag edged dragged cut-limestone buttressed gabled bellcote to apex framing embossed cast-bronze bell ("----"), and cast-iron rainwater goods on dragged cut-limestone "Cavetto" corbels retaining cast-iron downpipes. Tuck pointed snecked rock faced limestone walls on drag edged tooled cut-limestone cushion course on tuck pointed snecked rock faced sandstone battered plinth with drag edged rock faced cut-limestone buttresses including drag edged rock faced cut-limestone buttresses to corners having drag edged dragged cut-limestone "slated" coping. Lancet window openings, drag edged dragged cut-limestone block-and-start surrounds having chamfered reveals with hood moulding on monolithic label stops framing fixed-pane fittings having stained glass margins centred on square glazing bars. Pointed-arch window opening (east) with dragged cut-limestone mullions, and drag edged dragged cut-limestone block-and-start surround having chamfered reveals with hood moulding on label stops framing storm glazing over fixed-pane fittings having leaded stained-glass panels. Lancet window openings ("cheeks"), drag edged dragged cut-limestone block-and-start surrounds having chamfered reveals with hood moulding on label stops framing storm glazing over fixed-pane fittings having leaded stained-glass panels. Pointed-arch door opening to entrance (west) front, drag edged dragged cut-limestone block-and-start surround having chamfered reveals with hood moulding on monolithic label stops framing timber boarded double doors having overlight. Lancet flanking window openings with drag edged dragged cut-limestone block-and-start surrounds having chamfered reveals framing storm glazing over fixed-pane fittings having stained glass margins centred on square glazing bars. Lancet "Trinity Window" (gable), drag edged dragged cut-limestone block-and-start surrounds having chamfered reveals with hood mouldings on monolithic label stops framing storm glazing over fixed-pane fittings having stained glass margins centred on square glazing bars. Interior including vestibule (west) retaining encaustic tiled floor; square-headed door opening into nave with glazed timber panelled double doors having sidelights on panelled risers below overlight; full-height

interior open into roof restored, 2010, with cut-veined white marble wall monuments (1837; 1949), quatrefoil-detailed timber organ gallery (west) on chamfered timber posts supporting Gothic-style timber panelled pipe organ below "Trinity Window", encaustic tiled central aisle between quatrefoil-detailed timber pews, paired Gothic-style timber stations between stained glass memorial windows (----), exposed pointed-arch braced scissor truss timber roof construction on "Bowtell" corbels with wind braced timber boarded ceiling in carved timber frame on carved timber cornice on quatrefoil-perforated frieze, and pointed-arch chancel arch framing encaustic tiled cut-veined white marble stepped dais to sanctuary (east) retaining arcaded memorial communion railings (1916) centred on cut-veined white marble Gothic-style altar below stained glass memorial "East Window" (1916). Set in landscaped grounds on an elevated site with cast-iron chamfered piers to perimeter having trefoil-detailed roll moulded gabled capping supporting cast-iron double gates.

## **Appraisal**

A church erected to designs (1913; 1916) by William Henry Byrne and Son (formed 1902) of Suffolk Street, Dublin (DIA), representing an important component of the early twentieth-century built heritage of County Mayo with the architectural value of the composition, one recalling the Byrne-designed Catholic Church of Saint Patrick and Saint Bridget (designed 1912; completed 1918) in County Wexford, confirmed by such attributes as the rectilinear plan form, aligned along a liturgically-correct axis; the robust rock faced surface finish offset by sheer limestone dressings not only demonstrating good quality workmanship, but also compounding a sober two-tone palette; the slender profile of the openings underpinning a "medieval" Hard Gothic theme with the chancel defined by an elegant "East Window"; and the handsome bellcote embellishing the roofline as a picturesque eye-catcher in the landscape. Having been well maintained, the elementary form and massing survive intact together with substantial quantities of the original fabric, both to the exterior and to the interior where contemporary joinery; restrained stained glass; a modified high altar; and the jewel-like Canning Memorial "East Window" ordered (1915) from Joshua Clarke and Sons (established 1892) of South Frederick Street, Dublin, all highlight the artistic potential of the composition: meanwhile, an exposed timber roof construction pinpoints the engineering or technical dexterity of a church forming part of a self-contained group alongside an adjacent chapel (see 31307029) with the resulting ecclesiastical ensemble making a pleasing visual statement in a rural street scene.

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