



Barnesmore Gap Greenway

Appendix 15.2: Previous Archaeological Investigations

Donegal County Council

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1. Appendix 15-2 – Previous Archaeological Investigations

Table 15-2-1 - Previous Archaeological Investigations

Licence No.	Investigation Type	Results	Location & Distance to Proposed Development
15E0134 / 11R0078	Geophysical survey & Testing, in advance of development (school)	Fulacht fiadh identified in the most waterlogged part of the site. No other archaeological features identified, despite the presence of a recorded ringfort c. 20m south (DG078-017). https://excavations.ie/report/2015/Donegal/0024595	Millbrae, Stranorlar; St Mary's National School, c. 185m W
04E1602	Testing, in advance of residential development	No archaeological features or finds. https://excavations.ie/report/2004/Donegal/0011538	Navenny, Ballybofey; Lawnsdale, adjacent to proposed development
06E1116	Testing, in advance of proposed residential development	Souterrain & pit, located c. 150m & c. 130m W of the proposed development (compound). No other archaeological features or finds. (Kieran 2006) The test trenches extended into the area of the proposed development (including the construction compound), but no features were identified in this area. No record of the archaeological features being excavated and the housing remains only partly constructed within the original site. Although these features were added to the SMR as DG078-045, the souterrain was misclassified as a corn-drying kiln (an error that appears to have originated in the associated Excavations Bulletin). The testing report description and photos clearly point to the remains being those of a souterrain and it is so named in the report (Kieran 2006). The SMR data point is also in the wrong location, c. 85m ENE of where the souterrain was identified & c. 70m NE of the pit.	Navenny, Ballybofey; S bank of River Finn, partly within proposed development
12E008	Testing, in advance of proposed N15 Blackburn Bridge Road Realignment Scheme	The foundations and floor of a post-medieval house were identified at the location of a building depicted on the 1st edition six-inch map. No other archaeological features or finds. https://excavations.ie/report/2012/Derry/0022715/	Goland, Croaghonagh, Meencargagh, Dooish. Exact location of remains unknown. Report not available.
05E1152, 05E1153, 05E1159, 05E1158	Testing, in advance of proposed N15 realignment scheme	4 of the test areas are partly within or near to the proposed development: Test Areas 1-4 (05E1152, 05E1153, 05E1159, 05E1158 respectively). See also RMP DG077-029 (CH020), Goland townland (05E1158), formerly thought to be a standing stone, but the testing showed it to post-date a field drain beneath it, which was associated with the railway construction. This is now a redundant record. The testing in Croaghonagh (05E1152) and Meencrumlin (05E1153) revealed peat deposits varying in thickness from 0.3m to 2.5m in Croaghonagh test area and 0.5m to 1.95m in Meencrumlin test area. Testing in areas that were beside or near the disused railway line frequently encountered stone-lined drains associated with it. There was also evidence for lazy beds, indicating cultivation in areas now in use as rough pasture.	Goland, Goland Lower, Croaghonagh, Meencrumlin. Partly within / adjacent to proposed development

Licence No.	Investigation Type	Results	Location & Distance to Proposed Development
10E0309, 10R0103	Geophysical survey, archaeological testing & excavation, in advance of proposed Lough Mourne dam	Investigations revealed a cluster of archaeological sites of prehistoric date located just outside the study area at Lough Mourne (RMP/SMR Nos DG086-002001 to DG086-002007; CH021 to CH027 in Appendix 15-4). These are excavated sites and although there are no above-ground remains, they speak to a focus of prehistoric activity on the northern shores of Lough Mourne and to the importance of this routeway through the Barnesmore Gap.	Croaghonagh Adjacent to proposed development
06E0657 & 06E0657ext.	Testing & Monitoring	Within the footprint and immediate vicinity of Lough Eske Castle (hotel) during redevelopment works at the site. Nothing of archaeological interest found. Testing: Overlying deposits measured a depth of 0.5m on average, and their removal revealed natural subsoil. No archaeological deposits or remains were identified during the course of testing at the site. Monitoring: A mix of accumulated soil wash and rubble from the collapsed portions to the rear of the castle, was removed under supervision to expose the floor levels of the 1861 castle which are to be retained within the development proposal. The floor levels themselves do not appear to date to the 19th century but rather to the reuse of the building as a hotel during the 20th century.	Lough Eske Demesne

