AtkinsRéalis

Appendix 17-1 – Previous Archaeological Work in the Area of the Proposed Development

Uisce Éireann
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BALLINA AND LOUGH TALT WATER SUPPLY UPGRADE

Appendix 17.1

Previous archaeological work in the area of the Proposed Development

License number	Summary Description
98E0214	Archaeological assessments were carried out at Garrankeel, Ballina, Co. Mayo, in advance oproposeded industrial development. The site consisted of two low banks at right angles to each other, identified in the course of an Environmental Impact Statement. Two trenches were excavated. Trench 1, 3.5 m x 1 m, was placed across the eastern bank. Sod was found to overlie naturally derived gravel, which overlay natural, yellow/brown boulder clay. No trace of a ditch was recovered, and the interior contained a layer of stony, brown clay in which were two iron handles of a bucket of probable 19th-century date. The feature appears to be a 19th-century tree ring, built as part of Belleek Castle demesne
15E0347	The ground conditions were generally waterlogged and the weather was wet with frequent rain. The pits were excavated by 3600 excavating machine with a toothed bucket. Seven Trial Pits were excavated on 23 September. The stratigraphy in each pit was as follows: TP1 - 0.2 m peaty topsoil over natural gravels. No features or deposits of archaeological significance identified. TP2 - 0.3 m peaty topsoil over natural gravels. No features or deposits of archaeological significance identified. TP3 - 0.2 m peaty topsoil over natural gravels. No features or deposits of archaeological significance identified. TP4 - 0.5 m peaty topsoil over natural gravels. No features or deposits of archaeological significance identified. TP5 0.5 m peaty topsoil over natural gravels. No features or deposits of archaeological significance identified. TP6 0.5 m peat over natural gravels. No features or deposits of archaeological significance identified. TP7 0.4 m peat over natural gravels. No features or deposits of archaeological significance identified. A single slit trench was excavated on 24 September to locate an existing water main which was buried approx. 40 years ago. The trench was 5 m long and indicated peat over natural gravels: Slit Trench 1: 0.4 m peat over natural gravels. No features or deposits of archaeological significance identified. Nothing of archaeological significance was identified in any of the trial pits or the slit trench excavated on site.
23E0038	Archaeological testing of a proposed infill development site was carried out following a further information request set out by the planning section of Mayo County Council. Testing took place on 18 January 2023. The site consists of two fields; the westernmost comprised deep bogland, making it entirely inaccessible for safety reasons. The test trenching area was divided into two separate areas divided by a deep water-filled drain and comprising the large open field (Area 1) to the east and the deep boggy area to the west (Area 2). The testing scheme was applied to the accessible eastern field (Area 1) where 6 test trenches were excavated using a 13-tonne mechanical excavator equipped with a graded bucket, 1.5 m wide. The total length tested was 225.3 m. The area had a gently undulating topography, which was waterlogged in places and difficult to traverse. All trenches were excavated to the underlying natural substrate which, in most of the trenches, comprised a whiteish-grey marly clay with variations of blackened soil with occasional decayed stone. No material of an archaeological nature was noted during testing.

23E0775	A detailed phase of archaeological assessment incorporating background research, field inspection, geophysical survey and archaeological testing was carried out in advance of proposed agricultural improvement works at the enclosure site of MA030-010. The site is located in the townland of Culleens, on the Killala Road (R314), approximately 2km north of Ballina town. The enclosure is no longer clearly visible on the ground and cartographic records indicate this site was likely to have been quarried out between 1837-1890. It is last recorded on the 1837 OS 6-inch map. It does not appear on later editions such as the OS Historic 25 inch map of 1910 or on any later aerial photographs or LiDAR imagery. On review of an initial desktop assessment a Geophysical Survey was requested from National Monuments Service in order to determine if any subsurface traces of the monument survived. Geophysical survey was commissioned under Licence No. 23R0045. The geophysical survey did not reveal the location or condition of the earthwork; it did reveal several new potential sub-surface features or anomalies in the environs. Archaeological testing was planned to target the area around any possible sub-surface remains of levelled Ringfort-Rath (MA030-010) and various anomalies highlighted in the geophysical survey. Extensive trenching across the area revealed no evidence of any subsurface remains connected to the ringfort. Three trenches (3, 4 & 6) were positioned in order to determine the extent and whereabouts of any remains. No evidence for any archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified. Findings were consistent with past quarrying activity. The other 6 trenches (1, 2, 5, 7, 8 & 9) were located to investigate anomalies located and highlighted in the geophysical survey. These also failed to reveal any sign of archaeological finds, features or deposits. A field boundary and drainage ditch evident in Trench 7 coincided with anomalies identified in the geophysical survey. The central pit targeted in Trench 8 was caused by a large area of decayed and decaying stone. No evidence for any archaeological finds, features or deposits were found during this program of testing.
06E0195	Monitoring of the Ballina main drainage scheme within a greenfield area in the environs of Ballina town uncovered three separate areas of fulacht fiadh activity within a confined area in Farrannoo townland. The remains were a small pit, a wood-lined trough, a boiling pit and post-holes, all found in association with disturbed deposits of heat-fractured stone and charcoal. A retouched chert blade, struck debitage and a hammerstone were found, together with a pocket of animal bone beside the wood-lined trough.
03E0258	A narrow trench approx. 0.7 m wide and approx. 0.9 m deep was mechanically excavated for the broadband fibre network in Ballina town and its environs. Monitoring took place for the duration of the twelve-week scheme, which extended through or near to areas of archaeological constraint around six monuments. This included an Augustinian friary founded ‘sometime before 1400’ (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970). Nothing of archaeological significance was found during the monitoring.
25E0070	Archaeological monitoring of geotechnical site investigations associated with the Lisglennon-Lough Talt pipeline route and associated infrastructure was undertaken between January and June 2025 (License 25E0070). Additional site investigations at five locations were undertaken over three days in November 2025. The second phase involved the monitoring of 2 test pits, and 3 slit trenches excavated in the grounds the 19th century Belleek Manor (NIAH Reg. 31303017). The archaeological monitoring recorded no artefacts or features of archaeological significance. A stone culvert was identified on the edge of the Ballina-Killala Road (ST WCO 03) in the townland of Culleens. This culvert is recorded on the later editions of the historical

	ordnance survey six-inch maps and is probably associated with the former Great Southern Railway Line that connected Ballina and Killala.
25E0070 (Ext)	Archaeological testing along the proposed pipeline route in greenfield locations was undertaken between March and May 2026. The testing involved the excavation of 15 trenches along the route. One feature of potential archaeological significance was encountered in Trench 7 in Ballinteenan townland. It
26E00	Underwater dive, wade and metal detection surveys were undertaken at Lough Conn and selected river and stream crossings.